

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 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is a legislation which requires public bodies – including local authorities, health boards and other organisations including the Arts and Sports Councils of Wales – in order to sustain a long-term effect at the forefront on an individual's thinking, in order to work with other relevant organisations (for example third sector groups). Members of the public also attempt to prevent and tackle problems and issues. The Act became decided upon following an extensive consultation periods which was known as what's called a National Conversation.

The purpose of the Act is to make public bodies listed within this act to think more about the long term, about working with other individuals and communities and to look to prevent certain problems and to maintain a more joined-up approach. The new law will mean that, for the very first time, public bodies that are listed within the Act must do what are expected and needed do within a sustainable format. Public bodies also need to make sure that when making necessary decisions, they must also consider the impact that these decisions could have on individuals that could end up living in Wales in the future.

The Act will expect the individuals to complete the following:

- Work better with other individuals
- Involve other individuals by reflecting the diversity within communities
- Look at the long term as well as focusing on what's happening within the present
- Take the necessary action in order to try and stop problems from worsening – or even to stop problems and issues from developing in the first place or at all

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act came into force on the 1st of April 2016. The aim this act is to improve the following factors of well-being including social, economic and cultural factors in Wales by placing specific duties on the public bodies to think about the long-term results.

The role of The Future Generations Commissioner is to act as a guardian for the interests of the future generations in Wales, in order to support all public bodies in order to work towards achieving all the well-being goals needed and to monitor the progress whilst achieving certain objectives. This role was supported by what's called an advisory panel, which includes other Commissioner's in Wales, the Chief Medical Officer for Wales and a representative of the Natural Resources for Wales.

The Act itself establishes a statutory Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, whose roles should act as a guardian for the specific interests on the Future Generations within Wales. The purpose of this is to support the public bodies that are listed within the Act in order to work towards achieving all the necessary well-being goals. The Act also establishes the Public Services Board (PSBs) for each local authority area that is included within Wales. Under the Act, each PSB that is included within the Act, must attempt to improve the economic, social, environmental a cultural well-being within their area while working to achieve all these well-being goals.

The purpose of the following Seven Well-being goals is to make sure that individuals are all working towards the same purposes, the Act introduced seven well-being goals which include A Prosperous Wales, A Resilient Wales, A More Equal Wales, A Healthier Wales, A Wales of Cohesive Communities and A Globally Responsible Wales.

The meaning of A Prosperous Wales is:

- A society that is innovative, productive and low carbon
- This society recognises the limitations within a global environment
- It also uses efficient resources and uses them proportionately
- It develops a population which is skilled and well-educated within a certain economy which generates wealth and it provides an effective employment opportunity for individuals

The meaning of A Resilient Wales:

- A Nation that maintains / enhances a biodiverse and natural environment
- A Nation which has a healthy functioning ecosystem which support resilience that is social, economic and ecological which has the capacity to adapt to certain changes

A More Equal Wales is:

- A society which enables individuals to fulfil their individual potential no matter what their personal backgrounds or circumstances are

A Healthier Wales means:

- A Society where an individuals physical and mental well-being becomes maximised and also when choices and behaviours that can benefit the future health become understood clearly

The meaning of a Wales of Cohesive Communities is:

- Communities that are attractive, viable, safe and also well-connected

The meaning of a Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language is:

- A society which promotes and protects the culture, heritage and even the Welsh Language
- This well-being goal also encourages individuals to participate and take part in the arts, sports and recreation

And lastly a Globally Responsible Wales is:

- A nation which, whilst doing anything in order to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being within Wales
- This goal also considers about whether improving this factor will maintain a positive contribution towards global well-being

The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires all public bodies within Wales to think about what the long-term impact of the decisions they make could be, whilst working better with people, communities and other individuals, and to prevent persistent problems which include poverty, health inequalities and even climate change. The Act is incredibly unique to Wales and is also attracting interest from other countries across the world and it also offers a huge opportunity to make what they call a long-lasting positive change for current and even future generations.

The meaning of Sustainable Development is about improving the way in which individuals improve economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being. The Act begins by giving a clear definition of what is the meaning of sustainable development. The process includes improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in accordance with the sustainable development principle, which is aimed towards achieving all the well-being goals. For Wales to be sustainable, it is important that all four aspects are improved with the purpose of well-being and that each aspect is as important as the others.

The Act places an important duty where public bodies are expected to carry out a necessary duty that is expected to be completed by law. The well-being duty states that each public body must carry out the process of sustainable development. The action of a public body carries out sustainable development which must include setting and publishing necessary well-being objectives which are designed in order to maximise the contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals, whilst taking all the reasonable steps (whilst exercising within functions) in order to meet the necessary objectives.

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2018) *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* Available at: <https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/> (Accessed at: 27th of November 2018)

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The meaning of stability is when an individual meets their own needs without compromising any abilities within the future generations while they meet their own needs. In addition to using natural resources, individuals also need to use social and economic resources. The term of sustainability and the concept is a relatively new idea, but the movement as a whole also has roots within social justice, conservationism and internationalism. Towards the end of the twentieth century, most of the ideas included eventually came together for ‘sustainable development’.

The publication of the Brundtland Report, also known as *Our Common Future*, was released in 1987 through the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). This publication introduced the concept of sustainable development and how this can be achieved. This is sponsored by the United Nations (UN) and is chaired by the Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, the WCED also explored the causes of environmental degradation which attempted to understand the interconnections that are being displayed through social equity, economic growth and environmental problems, where policy solutions have been developed and integrated in all three areas. The WCED (also known as the Brundtland Commission) were charged with the responsibility of proposing long-term solutions for bringing sustainable development and continuing with this process into the 21st century.

In 1983, the United Nations chose former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland to propose the new *World Commission on Environment and Development*. After decades of effort aiming to raise the living standards through the process of industrialization, many countries were still having to deal with the problem of extreme poverty. It also seemed that the economical development

with the cost of the ecological health and social equity did not result the lead of long-lasting prosperity. The Commission has successfully unified the environmentalism with the social and economic concerns with the agenda of the world's development.

University of Alberta (N.D) *What is sustainability?* Available at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/files/sustainability/what-is-sustainability.pdf> (Accessed at: 27th of November 2018)

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The term the four pillars of sustainability is used broadly in order to indicate programs, initiatives / actions which is aimed at the preservation of a resource. However, it also briefly refers to four very distinct areas which include: social, economic and environmental pillars which are known as the four pillars of sustainability.

The aim of the pillar of social sustainability is to preserve a social capital by investing and creating services which constitute a framework within a society. This concept accommodates a larger view in relation to various communities, cultures and globalisation. This is in order to preserve the future generations and to acknowledge what individuals can do in order to have an impact on others and even on the world. The purpose of social sustainability is to focus on maintaining and improving the social quality within the concepts of cohesion, reciprocity and the honesty and importance of relationships amongst individuals. This can also be encouraged and supported by laws, necessary information and even shared ideas for equality and rights. Social sustainability also incorporates the idea of a sustainable development which is defined by the United Nations development goals. The principle of the sustainable development is to address the social and economic improvement which protects the environment and supports equality, which therefore means that the economy, society and the ecological system are now mutually dependent (Diesendorf, 2000). Universal human rights and the necessities which are attainable by all individuals, who also have access to plenty of resources with the purpose of keeping families and communities healthy and secure within communities. Healthy communities also have specific leaders that personal, labour and cultural rights become respected and that all individuals are protected against discrimination.

The social development pillar has many different facets. The most important facet is the awareness and the protection of legislation of the health of individuals and other organisations. There are now strong programmes of legislation which have been put in place in order to make sure that individuals

health / wellness is very strongly protected. This principle is also about maintaining the access to basic resources without compromising the basic quality of life.

The purpose of the economic pillar is to maintain the capital and keep it intact. While social sustainability focuses on improving the process of social equality, economic sustainability which aims to improve the standard of living for individuals. This economic issue proves is most problematic as most individuals disagree with the political ideology and with what is not economically sound. The purpose of Economic development is all about giving individuals what they need or want without compromising and individual's quality of life, especially within the developing world. Many human communities across the world can maintain their own independence and they also have access to resources that are required, such as financial resources, in order to meet specific needs. Economic systems are also intact and various activities are available to all individuals, such as the sources for livelihood.

Recent changes that are within the sustainable development process have the potential to develop a wider appreciation and the understanding a unique role that is sustained within cultural heritage. Cultural sustainability was originally considered by individuals as an important component of social sustainability but is now regarded as a component of the equal importance for other sustainability concerns. Many sustainability models now depict the pillar of culture as the 'fourth pillar', which are included and situated alongside the social, economic, and environmental concerns which are included (Hawkes 2001, i; Figure 2).

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 eventually came into force in April the 6th 2016. This Act provides all the legal framework that is needed for improving the well-being of individuals who need necessary care and support, and also carers who need support, and also for transforming the social services within Wales. The Act within the National Assembly for Wales reforms social services law in order to make provisions to do with improving well-being outcomes for individuals who need certain care and support and in order to make provisions about the co-operation and partnerships by public authorities that have a specific view on improving the well-being of individuals in order to make provision about complaints that are related to social care and also palliative care, for connected purposes.

Individuals will aspire to use different social care lives throughout their life. An individual needs can vary according to their specific life stage and the conditions they live in. Healthy individuals should also use services which are given for immunisation and education. Health and social care services can also support individuals with conception until the end of their life.

The meaning of Formal Care means that caregivers are usually typically paid professional carers. These individuals could also be volunteers that are working for a specific charity. Within both cases all formal care givers are trained within elderly care and can also provide services that informal

caregivers cannot provide. The formal caregivers can usually be located within the home of the patient they are caring for if it is logical to supply home care.

This act aspires to improve the social and cultural well-being of Wales by making sure that the seven well-being goals included within the act are successfully completed. The purpose of these goals is to improve Wales for the better including improving Wales to be more prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, more cohesive communities, more vibrant and with making that the Welsh Language thrives and lastly a globally responsible Wales.

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In conclusion, I have explained the meaning of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. I have also explained how the seven well-being goals should be completed by public bodies in order to improve whilst explaining that public bodies (whilst completing these goals) need to consider the present and long-term effect in the future of completing these necessary goals. I have discussed the role of The Future Generations Commissioner is within the process of improving Wales, by explaining that the commissioner acts as a guardian whilst considering the specific interest of the Future Generations within Wales. Discussing the pillars of sustainability is to present how these pillars help to develop a framework within societies. The main purpose of this essay was to briefly explain how the Act works, how it improves Wales and supports individuals and also the difference between formal and informal care.

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