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One Wales: One Planet

The Sustainable Development Annual
Report 2013-14

Laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 23 June 2014





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Minister's Foreword



I am pleased to present the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Annual Report. This is our sixth report since the Sustainable Development Scheme, One Wales: One Planet was published in 2009, fulfilling the Welsh Ministers' duty under section 79(6) of the Government of Wales Act 2006. The report covers our activities over the period April 2013 to March 2014 and outlines how the proposals in the Scheme have been taken forward in that period.

The Welsh Government's approach to advancing sustainable development will take a further step forward in the near future as we prepare to realise the benefits of the proposed Bill to strengthen the sustainable development framework in Wales. Whilst this report has been and remains an important milestone in our work, the Bill will further strengthen our approach to sustainable development within government and across the devolved public sector. The Bill will also strengthen reporting requirements and the day to day actions that government is taking to embed sustainable development. In advance of, and in order to support this change, we have decided to align this report with the Programme for Government, the principal plan of the Welsh Government, to help prepare our future reporting arrangements under the Bill. This will aid transparency and strengthen the resonance that sustainable development has as the organising principle of our government.

Mainstreaming the reporting on sustainable development in this way presents challenges in reflecting sustainable development through a new and broader suite of actions. This year has been a useful exercise to understand what works best. The reporting arrangements for the Sustainable Development Annual Report and Programme for Government progress report, published earlier in June 2014, have run in parallel this year, as we move towards bringing future reporting cycles closely together. I expect this, as well as other steps, will help improve the integrated nature of future reports.

I am pleased that the commentary from Peter Davies, Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, recognises the alignment with the Programme for Government as a step forward in our reporting arrangements. I am grateful again to Peter for his advice in helping to improve the report and the arrangements that support them. The focus of his commentary this year is on to the type of steps the Welsh Government must take to demonstrate the high standards of reporting on sustainable development that the Bill will help put in place.

Earlier this year, at my request, Peter agreed to lead a pilot National Conversation, 'The Wales We Want', to help understand the issues of greatest importance to the people of Wales. I published the Welsh Government's 'Wales we want' paper to inform this conversation, setting out a vision of the Wales we want by 2050 I want a Wales-wide engagement, a 'national conversation' to be an important part of the role of the proposed new Commissioner to be

established in the Bill. Inevitably, in the development of a broad ranging report such as this there will be some hard decisions for the Commissioner on which topics are included and which are not. The value of a periodic national conversation will be in helping us to identify priority long term challenges for the people of Wales.

Promoting sustainable development as a better way of tackling effective action to meet long-term challenges is a demanding process for the Welsh Government; whilst I recognise there is much more to be done, I am proud that through the Bill we will be strengthening our approach. This is timely, particularly coinciding as it does with governments around the world who are currently working to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals through the United Nations. We have decided not to step away from our sustainable development responsibilities as a government and through this landmark piece of legislation we will put in place a stronger framework to build on the achievements captured in this report.



Jeff Cuthbert AM

Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

Commentary from Commissioner for Sustainable Futures



This annual report is an important stepping stone in the process of sustainable development which has been a central feature of the devolution process. It reports against the “One Wales One Planet” scheme which set sustainable development as the central organising principle of Government but also anticipates the next step of a stronger legislative framework through the planned Future Generations Bill.

The alignment of this Sustainable Development Annual Report with the publication of the Programme of Government Progress Report represents an important step forward in the procedures for integrated reporting across Government. The disconnect between reporting on the progress of the Programme of Government and the content of the SD Annual report has been a major and consistent criticism in previous independent commentaries.

This Annual Report is clearly a transition stage in reporting as it is hoped that the planned Future Generations Bill will introduce a much more structured approach to integrated reporting across the public sector. This should include greater clarity as to how the policies and programmes being developed against a clear governance framework and contributing to the improvements in our key measures of progress.

The suite of Sustainable Development Indicators represents our current measures of progress and while accepting this period of transition includes a review of these indicators, Government needs to ensure they are much more central to the structure of future annual reports. We need to understand both how they have influenced policy and the impact of policies on the different measures, such as the response to the issues raised in last year’s State of Nature report .

The interim report on National Conversation, which I have been leading at the request of the Minister, provides clear evidence as to the priority issues and the measures that really matter to the people of Wales. The conversation will lead to the first Pilot Future Generations Report next March, which will include recommendations on the measures that matter, which must be at heart of future reporting.

The alignment of the annual report with the programme of Government allows for a much clearer demonstration as to how the principles of sustainable development are being applied in the delivery of the First Minister’s key priority areas of jobs and growth, educational attainment, improving health and well being, and supporting children, families and deprived communities. This helps to address the issue of materiality which I have consistently raised in these commentaries as central to integrated reporting, as a means of setting out clearly why some areas are included and other omitted in line with stated priorities, related to key performance targets. However I feel the report still falls a long

way short in this respect with significant gaps on material issues, notably energy, where the national conversation is highlighting frustrations in the efforts to increase community scale renewable energy production and the need for a more coherent focus on energy efficiency.

I very much welcome the focus on early, preventative action which is evident across these priorities clearly demonstrated through initiatives such as Flying Start, Families First, the various health campaigns and the investment in flood protection. It will be important though to track outcomes across the range of interventions referred to in each of the chapters, as the report repeats the tendency to focus on strategies developed and investment made, rather than outcomes achieved.

The recent Wales Audit Office report on the delivery of European Structural Funds, highlighted a lack of integration identifying the weakness in the application of cross cutting themes – “The programmes are on track to meet, and in some cases far exceed, most of their key performance targets but are likely to fall short of most of their environmental sustainability and equal opportunities targets”.

The chapters on the respective priorities also still reflect the dangers of a lack of integration and a silo approach to solutions, with for example no reference to:

- addressing fuel poverty to improve health and educational achievement;
- improving access to the natural environment and local food initiatives in improving health and wellbeing;
- or the cross departmental work in establishing a platform for Green Growth to deliver jobs and growth.

The need to ensure the integration of programmes to meet local needs highlights the importance of a community led approach to the delivery of outcomes, whether it be through effective engagement in Single Integrated Plans of Local Service Boards or local place plans as facilitated by place coordinators under Welsh Government’s Cynefin programme. The Annual Report needs to give greater emphasis to the enabling of these and other community led action in building sustainable communities.

It is important that the Report is set in the context of the trends impacting Wales as set out in the 2012 produced by Welsh Government “Understanding Wales’ Future”. I have consistently highlighted the value of this report and it has provided important material for the National Conversation, so I am pleased to see the belated reference in the Annual Report, but question the degree of awareness and influence it has achieved across Government. The new arrangements under the FG Bill must strengthen this horizon scanning function, taking note of the House of Commons Science and Technology Horizon Scanning report on UK Government, which states “much of horizon scanning taking place in government today does not deliver the benefit that it is capable of”.

It is important to recognise the continued commitment of Government to including an independent commentary from the Commissioner in this Annual Report and it is important that this principle is maintained under new reporting procedures included in the Future Generations Bill. However there should though be a means by which responses to the commentary can be incorporated formally into the annual reporting process, as while there have been positive responses to recommendations made in previous commentaries there has been no formal acknowledgement of action in subsequent annual reports.

Last year I recommended that Welsh Government “adopt best practice in integrated reporting as a prelude to the prospective legislative requirements”. I accept that there has been limited time to address this recommendation but it is important to recognise that Wales has established a global reputation for embedding sustainable development within the devolution process. This puts great emphasis on the quality of the annual report as a public document that represents leading practice in integrated reporting. It is very important that greater emphasis is given to this process and that Welsh Government demonstrates leadership that can be followed across the wider public sector in preparation for the introduction of the Future Generations Bill. I would specifically recommend that Welsh Government play an active role in the “Integrated Reporting Public Service Network” established by CIPFA and set out a clear timetable and route map for achieving best practice standards in integrated reporting, which would also incorporate the State of the Estate report.

This Annual Sustainable Development Report should represent a snapshot of the contribution that the Programme of Government has made towards our long term development goals over the last year. It needs to address the material issues, be focused on outcomes, include lessons from failures and be accessible to all. This report may not fulfil these requirements but is the first step in a transition to a more robust reporting process that I hope will be required under The Future Generations Bill.



Peter Davies
Commissioner for Sustainable Futures



Chapter 1

Sustainable Development at the heart
of Government

Introduction

Section 79(6) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to publish a report of how the proposals set out in the statutory Sustainable Development Scheme have been implemented in the preceding financial year. This year's Sustainable Development Annual Report reflects a break in the style and scope of reporting from previous years. This is in anticipation of the proposed changes the Welsh Government wishes to put in place through the Future Generations Bill (working title). The Bill will seek to ensure that public service organisations in Wales, including the Welsh Government, embed sustainable development at their heart so that we can collectively drive the changes that are needed for a more sustainable and fairer Wales. The way in which organisations, including the Welsh Government, demonstrate the difference they are making to the long-term future of Wales will be a key element so that public bodies primary reporting arrangements reflect their commitment to sustainable development.

Our preparations for the Bill have included a shift in focus on integrating how we report on our actions in the Welsh Government's Programme for Government. We are testing the approach this year, with the aim of improving and aligning the separate reporting arrangements for the Sustainable Development and Programme for Government annual reports more closely in future periods.

The Welsh Government's Programme for Government (2011¹) is our plan of action. It represents a real commitment to delivery, measured by the impact government is actually having on people's lives. In it we reaffirmed our commitment to make sustainable development our central organising principle. By this we mean an emphasis on social, economic and environmental well-being for people and communities, embodying our values of fairness and social justice and by looking to the longer-term in the decisions that we make now, to the lives of our children's children as well as current generations.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. It is the process that helps us define the best long term development path for Wales.

The origins of this commitment derive from our long history of having sustainable development at our very foundation².

In the Sustainable Development Scheme – *One Wales: One Planet* (2009)³, the Welsh Government set out that sustainable development would be the central organising principle for the Welsh Government.

¹ www.wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/?lang=en

² Section 121 of the Government of Wales Act 1998, Section 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006

³ www.wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en

Our commitment also extends to encourage and enable others in Wales to put sustainable development at the heart of what they do. Our proposals for a Future Generations Bill will ensure there is statutory footing that will strengthen and extend the current duty to the wider public sector⁴.

Sustainable development in Wales

Sustainable development means enhancing the economic, social and environmental well-being of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations in ways which:

- promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits – using only our fair share of the earth’s resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.

Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability.

Reporting on our actions

This is the sixth report, under section 79(6)(a) of the Government of Wales Act 2006, against the current sustainable development scheme, and the third since we published the Programme for Government in 2011.

The Welsh Government currently publishes an annual report on the progress being made towards outcomes set out in the Programme for Government and the actions being taken by the Welsh Government. The most recent report covering the actions taken in 2013-14 was published in June 2014.

The annual reporting process provides an opportunity for the Welsh Government to be transparent in how it continues to embed sustainable development as its core principle. It also illustrates the extent that evidence related to long term economic, social and environmental effects have informed the policy, programme or initiatives taken over the course of one year.

We have decided to take steps to align the two reporting regimes, not only in illustrating the relevance of sustainable development to the wider body of work of the Welsh Government, but also as a means of simplifying our processes and providing for a more integrated approach to reporting on the contribution we are making to a more sustainable and fairer future for Wales.

⁴ www.wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/future-generations-bill/?lang=en

The approach taken in developing this report has been to select a range of actions taken from each of the different chapters in the Annex of the Programme for Government. Each example contained within this report outlines how sustainable development has been recognised in our activities over the 2013-2014 period.

We are keen to report on how our commitment to sustainable development has underpinned the actions we have taken this last year in our policies and programmes. This report is a snapshot, but should be seen within the context of the actions taken in previous years and previous annual reports.

In identifying a cross section, inevitably some areas have not been included. Whilst the Programme for Government Annual Report provides updates for the 500+ actions, they are less detailed than the examples chosen in this document. This report provides an opportunity to draw out where programmes and projects have applied sustainable development, and in particular focused on long term sustainable outcomes, preventative action and considering economic, social and environmental issues in an integrated manner.

Doing so makes it difficult to provide concise updates that feature in the Programme for Government Annual Report and capturing all of the actions from the Annex would lead to a document too large to be easily understood or communicated effectively and so an element of discretion has been taken in choosing a general range of actions.

This report, as modelled on the Programme for Government Report, is divided into four further distinct chapters that reflect the First Ministers priorities in delivering jobs and growth, educational attainment, improving health and well-being and supporting children, families and deprived communities. This approach has been taken to integrate as far as possible the two reporting arrangements and demonstrate the relevance of sustainable development as our central organising principle.

We have continued our commitment to transparency by including a commentary from Peter Davies, Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, to provide rigour to this exercise and help us improve our reporting process and you can find this in the first section of this report.

This report coincides with the publication of the Commissioner's interim findings from a pilot National Conversation engagement exercise that has been taking place with the aim of ascertaining which priorities the wider Welsh society wants to see achieved for a more sustainable future. The National Conversation is a proposed feature of the Future Generations Bill (working title) that the Welsh Government would like to see occur on a cyclical five year period and Peter Davies' commentary and that report should be read alongside one another.

Understanding Wales' Future – Looking to the long term

In 2014, Wales faces a number of complex challenges. Many of these are legacies from the past, but it is important that this generation does not leave them as challenges for the next.

These challenges are long-term and complex. As a devolved government, we are able to impact significantly on Wales in both the shorter-term and longer-term. There are many outside influences that have shaped and will continue to influence how we improve our economic, social and environmental well-being for current and future generations. In 2012 we published 'Understanding Wales' Future' to help drive delivery of the Programme for Government. It is a resource that helps provide a stock-take of Wales' assets, set against the backdrop of the global trends that will drive change in the future. It is not an attempt to forecast the future but is an honest assessment of our relative position, and the analysis contained in this publication is intended to help us deliver significant, measurable improvements in the longer term prospects of people and communities in Wales.

In the Programme for Government we set out the big long-term challenges that our actions as a Government will want to improve and contribute to. These include:

- Jobs and the economy.
- Improving early years' experience.
- Improving school standards and attainment.
- Preventing poor health and reducing health inequalities.
- Ensuring people receive the help they need to have fulfilled lives.
- The supply and choice and quality of housing.
- Improving safety in communities.
- Equality of opportunities and tackling discrimination.
- More inclusive and cohesive communities.
- Tackling worklessness.
- Improving the skills of young people and families.
- Improving the health and educational outcomes of children, young people and families living in poverty.
- Rural economy.
- Living within environmental limits and acting on climate change.
- Supporting healthy eco-systems.
- Widening access to culture, heritage and sport.
- Strengthening the use of Welsh language in everyday life.

Reporting on our actions provides an opportunity to explain how the Welsh Government is contributing to tackling these challenges.

Measuring progress

The Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales are an important means of measuring our progress on sustainable development here in Wales. They help provide the structure for the current sustainable development scheme and were confirmed when *One Wales: One Planet* was published in May 2009. The latest indicators produced by the Welsh Government were released on 22 August 2013 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

The 'In Your Pocket' booklet on Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales 2013 provides measures of everyday concerns including health, housing, jobs, crime, education and our environment. The statistical release presents some background to the publication, and a summary table from the booklet.

The indicators consist of a small number of headline indicators of sustainable development, and the full suite of indicators that measure more specific issues related to sustainable development. The headline indicators, when considered collectively, are intended to give a high level view of progress towards sustainable development and **all indicators which showed a clear improvement in 2012 have continued to show a clear improvement in 2013**. The five headline indicators are as follows:

- Economic output – both GVA and GVA per head in Wales have increased continually between 1997 and 2011 (with the exception of a brief fall in 2009) to reach their highest level in the presented time series.
- Social justice – there has been little change in the percentage of the population in relative low-income households both before and after housing costs since the reference year (2002/05).
- Biodiversity conservation – of the priority species and habitats for which sufficient information was available, the number classed as 'stable or increasing' increased between 2002 and 2008.
- Ecological footprint – the ecological footprint of Wales fell to 4.4 % in 2006 compared to 4.7 % in the reference year of 2003. While this was slightly lower than for the UK in 2006, it was still more than double the average earthshare, being the average amount of global resources available per person.
- Well-being – there has been little change in either the physical component or mental component scores of the SF-36 (a standard set of 36 health questions which ask respondents about their own perception of their physical and mental health) since the baseline year (2003/04).

These indicators are due to be updated later in 2014 and are currently being consulted on. The Future Generations Bill (working title) which is being introduced in July 2014 will build on the current suite of sustainable development indicators.

Sustainable Development Charter

2014 saw a significant milestone in the role that the Sustainable Development Charter – the Welsh Government’s principal tool to support the embedding of sustainable development in organisations across Wales. On 20th March 2014 the First Minister attended the signing of the 200th signatory of the Sustainable Development Charter, Brecon Carreg. This followed a re-refresh of the charter in November 2013.

Businesses and organisations that sign up to our Sustainable Development Charter make a commitment that their work will help improve the long-term economic, social and environmental well-being of people and communities in Wales.

204 organisations are currently signed up to the Sustainable Development Charter. Private sector organisations make up the majority of these signatories at 113, 40 are public sector and 53 are third sector or social enterprises.

State of the Estate Reporting

This year, as we have brought the report forward to align more closely with the Programme for Government Report, it has not been possible to include the State of the Estate chapter. This is mainly because we have compiled the report early in 2014; therefore many of the actions and activities for this year are yet to take place or have not been reported against. However, the State of the Estate Report is also published annually by the Minister for Finance and will be available later this year.

Chapter 2

Growth and Sustainable Jobs



The Programme for Government recognises that the Welsh Government's most significant impact on the economy is likely to take place over the long term. An approach that therefore looks to the needs of current generations without compromising the quality of life of future generations aligns closely with the principles set out under our Sustainable Development Scheme.

Some of the long term challenges that we face in Wales are included within the Programme for Government and these are addressed within this section of the report namely; improving Welsh skills for employment, improving our infrastructure, creating a sustainable, low carbon economy as well as supporting the economy and businesses in Wales.

In addition to this, we need to be aware of living within environmental limits and acting on climate change, supporting healthy eco-systems and making sure we create sustainable places for people in Wales. The work captured in this chapter demonstrates how we are trying to address these challenges by applying sustainable development.

Responsible businesses in Wales

Supporting business transition to a more sustainable model is something that the Welsh Government is working to support. **Corporate social responsibility** is about businesses integrating social and environmental concerns in their operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis.

The Welsh Government expects any business seeking our support to sign up to our principles of Corporate Social Responsibility which includes a commitment to good employment practices, such as flexible working arrangements to encourage the creation of jobs that are accessible for parents and other carers.

Businesses are committed to focus on Corporate Social Responsibility on the integration of the three elements of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) as this can contribute to ensuring the development of business in Wales is more ethical and sustainable for the long term.

Ways in which organisations can engage and develop their Corporate Social Responsibility principles are to sign up to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Charter and 'Healthy Working Wales' work and health programme. By doing so businesses become part of a network of organisations that share ideas and successes through the Charter, and work on ideas on how to improve health and well-being in the workplace.

In November 2013 a commitment was made by the Department for Economy, Science and Transport to support Business in the Community establishing a project to support and maximise Small to Medium enterprises and micro businesses with a responsible business agenda by:

- enabling smaller business in Wales to maximise the business benefits of their responsible business practices;
- support the Programme for Government priorities of Jobs, Growth and Wealth (tackling poverty) and the aims of the Corporate Social Responsibility Programme; and
- support Business in the Community Wales priority to achieve scale by supporting an increasing number of businesses in Wales to behave responsibly.

Connected communities

Putting in place the right infrastructure to support business is an intervention that the Welsh Government can particularly support. **Next generation broadband infrastructure** is an underpinning requirement for the Digital Wales agenda and as such has a fundamental impact of all facets of sustainable development in Wales. The outcomes of the project are simple – to ensure a high speed broadband network is implemented across the whole of Wales that allows for access no matter who you are and where you are in Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to seeking to ensure access to next generation broadband services for all homes and businesses in Wales. Welsh Ministers entered into a grant agreement with BT in July 2012 to deliver this commitment following a competitive dialogue process. It is the largest partnership of its kind in the UK and will ensure that, when combined with commercial investment, 96 % of premises in Wales will have access to next generation broadband.

As a direct result of this agreement, BT will create 50 new skilled jobs, 100 new apprenticeships and will provide work experience to 900 young people in Wales, as well as protecting over 320 existing jobs across its business. The project already has engaged more than 90 new apprentices throughout 2013 and is currently evidencing the majority of the other employment key performance indicators.

Within the grant agreement there are specific contractual obligations to sustainable development. These obligations are encapsulated in a contractual schedule and include clauses obligating the grantee to sustainable employment, environmental sustainability, equality and diversity and commitment to sustainable supplier development. Current collaborative work in 2013/14 with BT has led to “green network” initiatives in Wales and a commitment by Openreach to incorporate more robust environmental assessment processes related to Natura 2000 sites not only in Wales but across the whole of the UK.

Delivering an effective transport system

Wales’ transport network as a key infrastructure area plays a vital role in supporting economic growth, social cohesion and environmental management. It is fundamental to our long term development, including through linking people to jobs, providing access to services and being a key element of our carbon emissions.

The Welsh Government is changing the way we plan and deliver transport services and target and prioritise investment; moving to a framework which serves the needs of businesses, people and communities in an integrated, strategic and sustainable way.

In doing so we are continuing to engage closely with the City Regions Boards and the North Wales Ministerial Taskforce on Transport, as well as the new Public Transport Users' Advisory Panel that is being established.



We are developing a new National Transport Plan which we intend publishing by the end of March 2015. The new plan will establish a transport framework that integrates local, regional and national transport planning.

In the past year we have issued new guidance to local transport authorities on developing Local Transport Plans and replaced the previous grant schemes with the Road Safety Grant, Local Transport Fund and Bus Services Support Grant. Applications for funding need to be outcome focused and show how they support our strategic outcomes as outlined in the Programme for Government. Local Transport Plans need to demonstrate clearly how they will support the Welsh Government's objective of developing integrated, efficient, effective, accessible, affordable and sustainable transport systems.

A competitive economy

Clustering areas of expertise in business, as in any other field, can provide advantages through improved collaboration and joint working. The overarching aim of the seven **Enterprise Zones** established in Wales is to strengthen the sustainability and competitiveness of our economy by supporting the safeguarding of existing employment and the growth of sustainable new jobs.

The sector focus of each Enterprise Zone is designed to promote sector clusters and supply-chain development, promoting growth and employment in locations that already display or have the potential to develop clusters of employment and business units. This approach, centred on specific locations, activities and key sectors aligns with our broader sustainable development considerations to improve the attractiveness of Wales for enterprise in the longer term.

Each Enterprise Zone is supported by a private sector led Board which is responsible for providing each Enterprise Zone with strategic leadership. These Boards have developed strategies aimed at securing the long-term transformation and sustainability of each Zone. To complement this, they have commissioned work such as master planning,

feasibility studies and strategic options assessments to ready sites for development and investment. This work is targeted at the distinctive opportunities and challenges that reflect the economic, geographical and demographic circumstances at each location. These are often long-term strategic and/or structural issues where policy and delivery solutions require broader sustainable development alignment.

Performance indicators have been published which will be used to monitor progress over the longer-term in key areas such as jobs, investment, land development, business support and enquiries. We will be reporting progress against those indicators in May 2014.

Making the most of the Welsh public purse

As well as providing an environment in which business can flourish, the Welsh Government is using the Welsh public purse to help support key sustainability outcomes.

The **National Procurement Service** was established in November 2013, to manage pan-Wales procurement contracts and frameworks for the public sector in Wales. It is a major public service innovation that will offer greater efficiencies and savings to its members by securing national agreements on a range of goods and services that are common to the public sector. The service will reduce expenditure; eliminate duplication, develop a sustainable procurement model and increase efficiency.

The National Procurement Service is far from being only about cost savings as it aims to develop local supply chains to make sure that Welsh businesses benefit from the £4 billion the Welsh public sector spends annually on goods and services. It is also intended to provide more opportunities for smaller local companies to bid for contracts, which will improve the long term prospects for such businesses in Wales. With over 70 organisations signed up representing all sectors, the National Procurement Service will:

- increase visibility of government opportunities for Welsh businesses, particularly Small to Medium enterprises;
- support local economic regeneration;
- help Small to Medium enterprises grow and develop for the long term;
- encourage the voluntary sector;
- address and prevent costly services and wastage (both financial and environmental);
- ensure better and faster delivery in the supply chain for the benefit of suppliers, buyers and Welsh tax payers;
- work with Business Wales to encourage and equip Welsh businesses to tender for Government opportunities; and
- consider economic, social and environmental factors in all its future frameworks and contracts.

The service will take a fresh look at where money goes and support cultural and behavioural change in procurement so that Welsh businesses feel they are armed with the skills to submit winning tenders for our contracts now and in the future.

Value Wales works with the Welsh public sector to build procurement capability and maximise outcomes achieved from its annual expenditure.

- Sub-OJEU (Official Journal of the European Community) adverts on Sell2Wales increased to 81 % – increased visibility of lower value opportunities is vital to smaller, more local suppliers.
- Simplified supplier selection stage – SQuID (Supplier Qualification Information Database) common question set used by 33 organisations through eTenderWales on 381 contracts, over 159,000 answers banked. It has also enabled smaller, more local suppliers to have better access to contract opportunities – indigenous contractors now winning 75 % of all major contracts and framework awards placed via sell2wales, up from around 30 % prior to SQuID.
- Community benefits scheme was first completed with 27 projects worth £346m show 84 % has been re-invested in Wales and some 517 disadvantaged people helped into employment, receiving over 13,020 weeks of training.
- Funded Home Grown Talent project – supporting 28 young trainees over 3 years to qualify and gain experience through placements, 11 of whom have already secured procurement positions, also supported 42 public sector officers attain professional procurement qualification.
- Electronic procurement – building capability has made processes simpler and more sustainable resulting in efficiency savings of £84million and savings of 187 tonnes CO₂, 3,120 trees and 57,627 reams of paper through paperless systems.



All of the above have contributed to the positive work being done by the Value Wales team in helping to further these aims and assist in helping to embed sustainable development into the heart of the procurement service.

A thriving rural economy

The Welsh Government is doing everything it can to support the farming industry and Wales' countryside. A key area of support comes through the Common Agricultural Policy. The intention of this work is to ensure that in Wales the **Common Agricultural Policy** continues to underpin the financial structures that are absolutely vital for sustainable, thriving rural communities.

Work continued in 2013 to prepare for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to be introduced from 2015. Reviews of agriculture in Wales have been undertaken in relation to farm resilience and rural development. Decisions about the implementation of Common Agricultural Policy reforms in Wales intend to place Welsh agriculture on the strongest possible footing for the future, ready for developments and opportunities in world markets and for further pressure on natural resources.



Payments under the 2013 Single Payments Scheme were made to 94 per cent of customers on 1st December (the first day allowable under EU regulations). A total of 96 per cent of farmers received their payment by the end of December, in line with the previous year. In addition, during 2013 advance payments were made to over 3,000 farmers who were adversely affected by the severe weather conditions at the start of the year.

The Welsh Government aims to support an agricultural system that provides income support to farmers, **sustains food production and encourages sustainable land management**. It is important that the overall approach addresses each of the three elements of sustainable development: a sustainable rural economy supporting effective use of natural resources and the development of vibrant rural communities.

The Rural Development Plan Processing and Marketing Grant and Supply Chain Efficiencies Schemes have provided £70 million to help rural businesses improve the profitability of food production. Grant aid is supporting sustainable production through investments in added value food and non-food processing and improving cooperation among producers and processors.

Support for sustainable land management is provided through the Glastir scheme and farmers continue to benefit from Single Farm Payments which provide income support of over £260m a year.

Food

Wales is one of the best performing countries within the European food retail market, with over 6 % growth in food and drink sales last year. Agriculture, fishing and food manufacturing combined have an annual turnover in excess of £5.2 billion. The Welsh Government seeks to continue developing the existing high quality and variety of food produce in Wales. We will seek to build a sustainable food system which balances the challenges of food production, energy needs and environmental protection.

'Delivering Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020' was the subject of intense public consultation between December and March. The draft Plan aims to define actions to strengthen the economic and environmental sustainability of the food and drink supply chain in a variety of ways, with actions identified for Government and the relevant industries.

We are working to ensure an integrated, profitable, resilient, secure and sustainable supply chain, with quality industry practices. This will encourage sustainable growth, whilst meeting the demands of the markets and the consumers we serve within the confines of legislative and environmental frameworks.



To that end, in the long term, we are seeking to achieve 30% growth in output to £6.7 billion by the year 2020. Where evidence is weak in support of the action plan's objectives we will look to identify knowledge gaps, through our industry analyst and commission new research as appropriate.

It is also proposed to establish a Welsh Food and Drink Federation which would comprise influential people representing each link of the food chain and related stakeholder interests, and has the potential to increase collaboration and engagement opportunities.

Reducing the amount of waste we produce

From our food and agriculture sector as well as other key areas there is inevitably the by-product of waste. The waste infrastructure procurement programme was established in 2008 to implement the national strategy, "**Towards Zero Waste**", and help address the affordability of sustainable waste infrastructure in Wales.

In terms of how sustainable development is being integrated within this programme, the "Towards Zero Waste", is Wales' overarching waste strategy document, and is an important element of the Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development. In the context of waste, sustainable development means waste must be treated as a resource. It sets out the long term framework for waste management and resource efficiency, in a way that meets the key overarching policies on sustainable development and climate change.

The purpose of the Welsh Government's waste strategy is not simply to meet statutory obligations and targets, but to meet these in a way that decreases the impact of waste on climate change and the ecological footprint for Wales thus taking a preventative approach and this is delivered through public private partnerships, to have outcomes to support local authorities to deliver sufficient treatment capacity to meet EU landfill diversion and statutory national recycling targets.

Five projects have awarded contracts, with the first anaerobic digestion facility operating successfully in Gwynedd. Construction is underway on two further anaerobic digestion plants in Denbighshire and Rhondda Cynon Taf, and Viridor's Energy from Waste facility at Trident Park, Cardiff.

The Welsh Government's programme also undertook significant targeted market engagement and testing to establish market capacity and appetite for projects and to confirm appropriate project structure and procurement approach and the results of the programme are evidenced through detailed case studies such as; on carbon balances have shown that anaerobic digestion is the best way in carbon terms to manage food waste.

Dealing with a changing climate

Climate change remains one of Wales' key long term challenges and without concerted action is likely to result in significant harm to our economy, communities and environment. In December 2013 the **Climate Change Strategy** Annual Report was published, reporting on progress to date and the report confirms that Wales has met the 3% annual emissions reduction target for 2011. It also shows that Welsh Government is in line to also meet our current targets and it also sets out our progress against reaching the wider commitment of 40% reduction by 2020.

The following sectors in particular have seen significant reductions: Transport Sector (6.8%), Resource Efficiency and Waste Sector (8.8%), Business Sector (13.3%) and Residential Sector (16.5%) and the sectoral breakdown also highlights the very good progress made in the Public Sector.

The report also highlighted actions being taken in Wales to build resilience and prepare for the risks and opportunities from Climate Change across sectors. Alongside this, a number of tools and resources have also been produced and published on line and will be linked into our knowledge transfer programme which will build up the exchange of such tools and information.

The Annual Report represents positive progress, however in order to continue to deliver against our targets in the long term we need to do more. We will be refreshing our climate change policy in 2014 and in doing so we will focus on the practical action we can take to deliver not only on our emissions targets but to increase resilience and prosperity and help embed sustainable development into Wales further.

Recent stormy weather over the winter period has highlighted the importance of putting in place systems and structures to prevent likely flood risk over the long term. Across Wales lead Local Flood Authorities are required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for **local flood risk management** in their area. By ensuring that the Local Strategies are consistent with the National Strategy it will ensure that the four overarching objectives set out in the National Strategy are delivered through the work of the risk management authorities in Wales. These objectives are – reducing the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion;

raising awareness of and engaging people on flood and coastal erosion risk; providing an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events; and prioritising investment in the most at risk communities. By 31 March 2014, the Welsh Government had received and approved 15 local flood risk strategies.

A Shoreline Management Plan is a large scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and their aim is to identify coastal risk management policies to reduce the risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environments, over the long term. There are four Shoreline Management Plans covering Wales, two being cross-border with England. Natural Resources Wales are assisting with work on environmental assessments and completion is expected by summer 2014.

Managing our natural resources

The Welsh Government has a key role in supporting the stewardship of our key natural resource: Wales' environment. Natural Resources Wales, formed by the Welsh Government, has taken over the functions of the Environment Agency in Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales. The **Living Wales Programme's** main purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, sustainably enhanced and sustainably used for the long term development of Wales.

To action this, a set of outcomes has been developed to help achieve this common purpose. The outcomes include the following: 'enhancing our environment', 'supporting enterprise and jobs' and 'supporting skills and knowledge'. Many of these shared outcomes aim to improve and prevent many problems faced today and in future. These outcomes reflect the Welsh Government's Programme for Government commitment to sustainability and fairness, as they emphasise the long term social, economic and environmental well-being benefits for Wales.



A consultation exercise was carried out during 2010 in order to engage with the public and key stakeholders, the opinions and responses were used to ensure that Natural Resources Wales is the key organisation to adopt and deliver the ecosystem approach. This work of Natural Resources Wales will contribute towards the Environment, Planning and Future Generations Bills.

The advantages of the new organisation are that its approach is more focused on activity through more joined-up and results-led planning of activities, producing more evidence. There are also better results by having an approach to delivery that gives greater operational freedom but much clearer line of sight to our goals and principles.

Another key resource is Wales' water; though seemingly abundant given Wales' maritime climate it is nonetheless subject at times to stress which is a factor increasingly likely in a changing global climate. The **Welsh Water Strategy** was published in April 2014 and sets out our long-term policy direction in relation to water and aims to balance the long-term needs of a sustainable and resilient environment with the need to ensure that there are sufficient, reliable water resources and waste water services available to encourage sustainable growth and job creation. The aim of the Strategy is to ensure that our water resource is resilient, sustainable and is managed in a way that fully takes advantage of the benefits that are delivered to Wales and its citizens. We will work with a wide range of partners who will play a full part in ensuring that this vision is realised.

A key theme underpinning the Strategy is the importance of taking an integrated approach to water management. This means that we want to promote coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social benefits in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of our ecosystems and the environment. A more integrated approach to water management will help to achieve further improvements to water quality across Wales and further sustainable development in Wales for future generations.

Our international role

Our approach to sustainable development recognises that we have an impact beyond our borders and a wish to make a contribution on a world scale. The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development is the only global network of regional governments on any topic.

The Welsh Government actively engages in the Network allowing us to share and learn best practice in relevant fields but also to promote Wales and the role of regional governments more generally.

In particular the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development makes the case for the role for regional and sub national governments in delivering global objectives such as the Millennium Development Goals and reducing carbon emissions and is following closely the UN discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sub-national governments are well placed to lead the progress on sustainable development and Wales often leads the Network by highlighting Welsh interventions. By working closely with international players and partners and building an understanding of the changing global agenda, the outcomes for the Network include having the opportunity to lead the transition from the ground up and making crucial changes where they are needed for the long term development of nations.

The Network has worked hard to seek wider recognition at the international level of the importance of the commitment of sub-national governments towards sustainable development with successes in ensuring regional governments are recognised and included in worldwide policies, tools and resources.

There are now three main work streams – Biodiversity, Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals.

A photograph of an elderly woman with short, curly white hair, wearing a white jacket and a blue collar, sitting on a black trampoline. She is looking towards the right, away from the camera. The background consists of a lush green lawn and a dense line of trees with vibrant green and yellow foliage, suggesting a park or golf course setting. The lighting is bright and natural, indicating daytime.

Chapter 3

Health and Well-being

The well-being of people over their life course can be directly affected by their relative levels of health and the care that they receive as well as wider social, economic and environmental factors. The health service in Wales as a consequence is designed for current generations of children, adults and those going into old age, while being ready and resilient for the future generations who will follow. Applying a sustainable development approach to health can help with long term planning so that the right levels of resources are available to help improve public health and limit the levels of health inequality that exist across Wales.

The NHS is taking action to improve the sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness of primary and secondary healthcare in Wales. Some of the long term challenges that we face in Wales are included within the Programme for Government and these are addressed within this section of the report namely; the need to improve health outcomes by ensuring the quality and safety of services is enhanced, improving access and patient experience, and working on preventing poor health and reducing health inequalities.

The work captured in this chapter demonstrates how we are trying to address these challenges whilst taking a sustainable development approach. Preventative action features strongly in this chapter partly as approaches developed to enable individual action in using existing health structures, enable early interventions that limit costs later on. However levels of well-being are not limited to interventions that relate to health prioritisation, the chapter therefore accounts for work taken to improve our experience of culture, recreation and sport.

Creating opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices

Choices such as smoking, drinking too much alcohol, lack of exercise and eating unhealthily are major contributing factors to conditions including cancer, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. The **health campaigns** run by the Welsh Government are aimed at preventing future ill health by supporting and encouraging people to make choices that will improve their health and well-being, and reduce their need for healthcare in the longer term.

In November 2013, the alcohol Change4Life campaign encouraged people to take at least 2 alcohol-free days per week as part of the sensible drinking strand. Change4Life Wales is currently running a Smart Swap campaign to encourage people to make small changes to their eating habits and has a particular focus in Community First areas. The Fresh Start campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of second-hand smoke specifically in cars was launched in February 2012 and ran until the end of March 2014. Campaign activity has included TV and media advertising, outdoor PR, summer roadshows, digital and social media, a dedicated website and a promotional DVD for use in primary schools. Fresh Start packs have also been produced with tips on making cars smoke free and practical tools to help smokers completely give up smoking.



Changes in attitudes and behaviours regarding smoking in cars carrying children will be used to inform the decision as to whether or not to proceed to legislation on this issue. The Welsh Government participated in Public Health England's Stoptober campaign last year, with approximately 14,000 people in Wales taking part.

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 received Royal Assent in November 2013. The purpose of the Act is to enable more people to choose walking or cycling as a mode of transport for their everyday journeys. The Act should lead to more and better quality infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, better information provision and better long term planning for enhancing active travel routes and facilities. The Act supports sustainable development by enabling people to be less reliant on private motorised transport.

The Act enables active travel by allowing people to make walking or cycling part of their daily lives by substituting these modes of travel for motorised travel. If facilities are in place, people can be active without significantly changing their lifestyles or routines.

Walking and cycling more frequently benefits individuals and wider society. Physical and mental health can improve through being physically active, whilst individuals often feel more part of a local community by walking and cycling than they do if they only drive through their local neighbourhood.

Preventative interventions

The Welsh Government is committed to supporting preventative interventions aimed at helping people to stay healthy and live well for longer, giving people greater control over their own health and well-being, and helping people to make informed choices about when to seek professional advice. The **health checks for people aged over 50 programme** comprises a holistic online health and well-being assessment, accompanied by community-based support to maximise levels of participation.

This approach is consistent with the strategic direction set out in *Together for Health* as it has real potential to support and empower people aged over 50 to gain greater control over their own health and well-being, in a convenient way. The programme's preventative approach is also consistent with principles of prudent health care and will contribute to the delivery of a number of key priorities, including improving access to health information, advice and services. It will also support the important concept of 'ageing well.'



Public Health Wales has led on the development of the overall programme throughout 2013, which has included securing appropriate input from professionals, stakeholders and potential service users into the design and development phase. Phased implementation of the 'Add to your life' online health and well-being assessment started with field testing in ten

Communities First cluster areas, which has enabled refinements to be made to the service. The programme will be rolled out nationally from spring 2014.

Tackling health inequalities

The Welsh Government is determined to tackle oral health inequalities and our **Designed to Smile** programme aims to reduce the gap between the most deprived and least deprived families in Wales. Designed to Smile provides direct clinical interventions and also encourages children to brush their teeth daily with a fluoride toothpaste to reduce the levels of tooth decay. These early interventions should prevent longer term problems in oral health.

The programme is operating in deprived areas across the whole of Wales. An overseeing National Forum is also in place and Steering Groups established in each Health Board area while funding of £3.7m was secured for 2013/14. The programme currently involves 1,394 nurseries and schools across Wales. In total, 87,318 children participate in the daily brushing programme (56.3% of all children from nursery to Year 2 in Wales). The 2011/12 dental survey of 5 year old children shows a 6% decrease in the proportion of children with experience of dental decay in Wales (47.6% in 2007/08 falling to 41.4%).

Dental disease levels in children are improving in Wales across all social groups. In contrast with previous surveys when improved decay levels were associated with widening inequality, there is no evidence of widening inequalities in this latest survey.

Inevitably, people may become unwell, requiring critical intervention from our health system. An increasingly challenged NHS means that every possible resource should be used as efficiently as possible and this is particularly important for **Accident and Emergency services**. Each conveyance of a patient by an emergency ambulance to Accident and Emergency costs an estimated £300; and every patient attendance at Accident and Emergency results in an estimated cost of £100 to NHS Wales. There has been a month on month reduction in the numbers of patients attending all emergency care units since July 2013. Further, attendances at all Accident and Emergency departments in Wales have been fewer for ten of the past twelve months when compared with the same period in 2012/13.

Reducing the conveyance of patients to Accident and Emergency departments forms part of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust's clinical model. This is designed to provide the most appropriate response to patients based on their clinical need, and contributes to the overall aim of the urgent and emergency care system to ensure safe and sustainable hospital services by reducing pressure on A&E units. This policy is consistent with the principles of Prudent Healthcare: namely the right request, the right response, the right intervention and the right transition to the most appropriate care.

Local Health Boards and the ambulance service are also working closely together to put in place alternative care pathways so that Paramedics, GPs and other Health Care professionals can avoid Emergency Department attendances and admissions. They are also engaging with GPs to get a better understanding of how alternatives to sending people to hospital can be used.

Further, Advanced Paramedic Practitioners also provide a wider range of specialist healthcare at the scene of an incident or at a patient's home. Approximately 20 Advanced Paramedic Practitioners operate throughout Wales with a further 19 currently in education and training. This results in better use of NHS resources with a cost saving of an estimated £400 every time an inappropriate conveyance of a patient by emergency ambulance to Accident and Emergency is avoided.

The Welsh Government recognises that, like physical health, mental health affects a wide range of people at different points in their lives. A practical example of the support available is the **Community Advice and Listening Line**. Anyone concerned about their own mental health or that of a relative or friend can access the service. The Community Advice and Listening Line offers a confidential listening and support service.

Since April 2010, funds to ensure the continued operation of the 24/7/365 service have been incorporated into the main discretionary allocation of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board which hosts and operates this service. The service offers emotional support and information or literature on mental health and related matters to the people of Wales.



The service provided by Community Advice and Listening Line falls into two parts. Initially the caller is offered emotional support through listening and allowing them to express their feelings regarding any crisis or situation. An information service is also provided whereby from the database contacts can be provided for agencies, statutory and voluntary, local to the caller. Free literature is also provided on a range of symptoms, mental health problems and the services provided by particular agencies.

By offering free support, the service can prevent mental health issues from becoming more serious and allow them to be managed.

With the funding provided by the Welsh Government the service can operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The helpline website has also further developed and visitors to the site can now search for agencies in their local area and email any updates on agencies that they come across.

Health and well-being

Many veterans in Wales are affected by mental health problems as a direct result of serving their country. Immediate or emergency treatment for veterans is available through mainstream provision as it is with the general population, in line with the clinical needs of the individual. In addition, particularly for veterans experiencing mental health problems, the Welsh Government funds the **All Wales Health and Well-being Service**, which aims to:

- improve the mental health and well-being of veterans;
- develop sustainable, accessible and effective services that meet the needs of Veterans with mental health and well-being difficulties who live in Wales.

There is at least one veterans' therapist in each Local Health Board in Wales, each of whom are experienced mental health professionals with an additional psychological therapies background.

Referrals can be made for a comprehensive assessment of psychological and social needs on a non-urgent basis to veterans who have served with the Armed Forces, either as a regular member or as a reservist, and have or are suspected of having service related mental health problems. This can prevent longer term and more serious problems from occurring.

The All Wales Health and Well-being Service also works closely with Third Sector partners and has developed a single, joined up pathway of care for veterans, which includes the NHS, Local Authorities, the Third Sector, MoD and military. This enables the All Wales Health and Well-being Service and partners to refer veterans to the provider best placed to provide for the individuals needs. The Welsh Government supports this approach which promotes effective joint working and optimal use of the resources available. To further support local provision we have dedicated Veteran and Armed Forces Champions in each Local Health Board to advocate for the community.

It is important to ensure that all public services are delivered in ways that recognise the particular needs of rural Wales. The Rural Health Implementation Group has undertaken a national programme of work to support Health Boards in taking account of the needs of rural communities in line with the **Rural Health Plan**. Delivering Local Health Care, published on 25 June 2013, reinforces the importance of assessing the needs of local communities, including those in rural parts of Wales. Local Health Boards and partners will draw on the work of the Rural Health Implementation Group in developing innovative new models of delivering care close to home that is used to prevent health inequalities and provide long term outcomes of excellent care to those that need it.

Safeguarding Wales' cultural heritage

The Welsh Government wants to give everyone an opportunity to participate in and enjoy the arts, sport and culture. This is particularly important in improving health and well-being. The Welsh Government is continuing to maintain its policy of free entry to the seven Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales sites and the National Library of Wales.

The success of the free entry policy to the Museum sites is reflected in a doubling of its visitor figures in the 12 years since implementation, from 750,000 to over 1.6 million annually. This is also true for virtual access with, for example, the number of users accessing the National Library's online services was over 866,000 in 2013. Statistics have been collated on the socio-economic background of visitors and plans are underway to strengthen performance indicators in the future, linked to participation by those living in poverty or

from disadvantaged backgrounds. The free entry policy has not only ensured greater social inclusion, by increasing the number of visitors from less well-off backgrounds, but has also enabled, for example, the National History Museum at St Fagans to become Wales' leading tourist attraction. Visitor spend has continued to make a significant contribution to the local and national economy.



Amgueddfa Cymru has continued to work with different partners to broaden its audience. The Museum's Child Poverty strategy has enabled schools in deprived areas to benefit from the Museum's educational services.

The National Library has engaged with 88 small and medium enterprises and sole traders during 2013, with European Regional Development Fund support, under the DigiDo Programme.

The Library as part of its 'Knowledge for All' strategy is working with partners to provide local access to its resources and a recently launched community partnership is delivering local access in Merthyr Tydfil at the College, Merthyr Tydfil, and more centres are planned for the long term development of libraries in Wales.

CyMAL: Museum, Archive and Libraries work to strengthen regional collaboration in the delivery of library, museum and archive services and ensure that local authorities meet national standards of public library provision. During the year much progress has been achieved:

- work towards the appointment of a Project Director to enable north Wales archive services to collaborate on long term strategies for regional working, including the potential provision of shared specialist archival storage;
- support increasing literacy and numeracy levels via a policy to enable every child to join their local library with an initial 6 pilots underway in local authority areas;
- progress a partnership under the national Museums Strategy with the UK Charity Kids in Museums and the Children's Commissioner for Wales to increase the levels of participation by children and young people with museums. In 2013, Taking over Museums Day involved 28 organisations and over 700 children and young people. A youth panel has also been established to advise the partnership;
- promote access culture and heritage services and increase the number of people taking part via a collaborative programme led by Wrexham Library and Information service; and
- improve access to community services via the re-furbishment of local libraries, working with other service providers to improve resilience and offer extended access. Six libraries were modernised during the year taking the total to 89.

Furthering sport development in Wales

Sport is vital in promoting health and making the population feel good about themselves and as a nation. It can also bring people together, strengthening and helping to regenerate our communities. 5 % of the population of Wales is involved in coaching or volunteering in sport.

Through **Sport Wales' Coaching Strategy**, the focus of the £3.6m investment is to retain current young volunteers to active adult volunteers and to support local authorities, national governing bodies and others to increase and retain the number of volunteers involved in sport. Workforce planning is now embedded within the planning process of some National Governing Bodies.

Through better long term and strategic planning, increased scrutiny, sharing of best practice and minimum standards for club accreditation, Sport Wales anticipates an increase in the number of coaches and volunteers and further progress towards the target of 10 % of the population volunteering in sport by 2016.

At the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, Welsh athletes made up 5.7 % and 13.2 % of the GB teams, respectively, which surpasses the target of 5 %. These athletes brought home a total of 21 medals and at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Welsh athletes are expected to exceed the total number of medals won at the last Games in Delhi (2010), which was 19.

A young girl with a red headband and braided hair is watering plants in a garden. She is wearing a red sweater over a red and white checkered collared shirt, a matching checkered skirt, white socks with a red stripe, and black Mary Jane shoes. She is holding a large blue watering can and pouring water onto a planter box filled with green plants and sunflowers. The background shows a wooden building with a window.

Chapter 4

Educational Attainment

The Welsh Government aims to create a better education system for all in Wales throughout their lives. For Wales to remain competitive it is vital that future generations develop the right skills and qualifications to make them resilient to the challenges they may face in life.

There are many challenges that Wales faces and the Programme for Government highlights these as issues including; improving early years' experiences, improving school attainment, developing Welsh Medium Education and the challenge of improving Further and Higher Education.

Improving educational attainment is not something that can be achieved over the short term and the policies and programmes being developed naturally look to positive outcomes over the long-term. This fits naturally with our approach to sustainable development with an eye to the future and where necessary taking preventative action to limit future harm.

Improving literacy and numeracy in schools

Raising standards of literacy and numeracy is one of the key priorities of the Welsh Government, and the strategic agenda is set out in the National Literacy and Numeracy Programmes. The approach to raising standards in literacy and numeracy is based on a long-term vision. There is a key focus on early intervention, for example, supporting children in the Foundation Phase. The framework helps schools identify how to best challenge and support learners.

This area is also closely related with the priority of addressing the link between poverty and poor attainment – there is a clear focus on targeting provision at areas of greater disadvantage (for example, schools that a high proportion of Free School Meals pupils) and this has consequent benefits for social and economic well-being. If people have a good level of literacy and numeracy it means that that they are able to achieve higher academic results and progress into further learning and better paid jobs, thus contributing at a higher rate to the economy in the future.



The statutory National Reading and Numeracy Tests for Years 2 through to 9, introduced in May 2013, are designed to ensure a consistent measure of learners' progress and provide a coherent national picture of learners' abilities. This gives a sound evidence base for teachers to target their interventions so that every child can reach their potential. A reasoning element will be introduced to the Numeracy Tests in May 2014. Supported with resources and guidance for teachers, this element will help assess learners' abilities to use the most effective procedure or set of procedures to find the solution to a problem, thus supporting development of an important life skill and one which employers value.

The Numeracy Employer Engagement Programme encourages employers to work with schools to show how numeracy can be used in real life contexts and highlight the value and importance of having strong numeracy skills in the future. This is supported by a national campaign (*What you say counts*) aimed at creating more positive attitudes towards numeracy.

A National Support Programme is in place to ensure that all schools receive the necessary support and training to effectively embed improvements in the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy.

As children make their way through the education system, it is vital that qualifications that they attain are relevant and resilient to future challenges. A review of qualifications for 14-19 year olds, led by Huw Evans OBE, made 42 recommendations to the Welsh Government, which are being implemented over 4 years.

The Review was strongly based on evidence and substantial stakeholder engagement, including work with learners and parents, as well as education providers, employers and others. The vision is 'qualifications that are understood and valued and meet the needs of our young people and the Welsh economy'. The aim is to establish a high quality national qualification system that provides solid evidence of the skills needed by employers. This will be achieved by learners having access to respected qualifications, valued by employers and further and higher education institutions throughout the UK and internationally. We are building on existing strengths and making changes at a steady pace.

The key changes include:

- A new independent body, Qualifications Wales, to strengthen the quality assurance and improvement of qualifications for the long term.
- Keeping the well-respected and widely recognised brands of GCSEs, AS and A levels (with AS levels counting towards the A level), and improving these as needed.
- New GCSEs in English Language, Welsh Language, Mathematics – Numeracy and Mathematics will be introduced from 2015, reflecting the priorities of literacy and numeracy.
- Further new GCSEs and A levels will be introduced from 2015 and in tranches over subsequent years.

In addition, a new approach to gatekeeping will ensure that vocational qualifications are relevant and valued and that assessment is rigorous, valid and proportionate.

The Department for Education and Skills is communicating with stakeholders and involving them in policy development and implementation, through various means such as working groups, roadshows, surveys and a specific website.

Improving Welsh Language in education

The **Welsh-medium Education Strategy** sets out the ambition of the Welsh Government for a country where Welsh-medium education and training are integral parts of the education infrastructure. The aim is to make Wales a place where all learners develop their Welsh-language skills to their full potential, to enable them to use the language in their personal lives, socially and in the workplace for the long term benefit of Wales.

The strategy includes targets against each of the key aims, to increase the number of learners studying through the medium of Welsh in all stages of education and to prevent the Welsh Language from declining in modern day Wales.

The successful implementation of the strategy will maintain and develop a rich and diverse culture within Wales and will ensure that the future workforce has the Welsh language skills required by employers, enabling services to be provided to the citizens of Wales in the language of their choice.

The implementation of the individual actions listed in the implementation programme of the strategy continues and progress is evidenced in the annual report, published on the Welsh Government website. A three year evaluation of the Strategy has commenced and this work will contribute to a review of the Strategy in 2015 to look at progress made and identify the most effective way forward.

Improving educational infrastructure

Educational attainment is not only influenced by the quality of education and the qualifications children work towards. Working environments in any field can have a significant bearing on the success of individual performance. The **21st Century Schools Programme** has been developed to improve educational infrastructure, so that it is capable of delivering a 21st century curriculum. This includes both refurbishment and replacement of schools and colleges across Wales.

The purpose of this investment is to achieve:

- Better learning environments for children and young people in Wales aged from 3 to 19, to enable the successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;
- An affordable and fit for purpose education estate, through better use of resources to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness;
- Enhanced local public service provision; and
- A 21st Century Schools Standard for all schools in Wales, which would reduce and prevent further recurrent costs, energy consumption and carbon emissions.

The programme operates a transformational approach addressing and engaging with all age groups (3–19yrs) with educational outcomes central to the programme objectives. The programme also seeks to achieve long term benefits over and above improved educational standards thus including improved energy efficiency and wider social benefits where possible.

Supporting young adults in education

The Welsh Government wants to support all of our students to remain in education or training as long as possible. The **Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme** provides a financial incentive (of £30 per week) to encourage young people (aged 16-18) from low income households in Wales to remain in full-time post-16 education beyond the compulsory school age.

Education Maintenance Allowance has been retained in Wales to help remove financial barriers for young people who otherwise might not be able to afford to remain in post-16 education due to the financial burden on them and their families. Over 30,000 students apply for Education Maintenance Allowance support annually, helping to prevent them from dropping out.

Educational Maintenance Allowance acts as a ‘something for something’ contract in which young people can earn their money by attending fully and thus the outcome is that they achieve their learning goals and reach their full potential. Previous reports and evaluations have suggested that Educational Maintenance Allowance has had a positive influence on raising participation and attendance among groups that traditionally have not participated as readily in post-16 education. There is a clear positive link between attendance and achievement. Learners have also commented that the scheme made them more independent and encouraged them to take more responsibility for their own learning thus making long term differences to the way in which young people think and progress into working life.

The option to progress to higher education is also widely promoted to Education Maintenance Allowance students. Data shows that around 30 per cent of those in their final year 2010/11 entered higher education in the subsequent two year period. This suggests that young people from low income households in Wales are aspiring to achieve their full potential.

An independent evaluation is being carried out, during academic year 2013/14, to establish the effectiveness of Education Maintenance Allowance across all recipients and whether the funding can be more efficiently targeted at specific groups to support them to stay in education post-16.

Improving learning opportunities

Following compulsory full time education we want to offer students the best possible further education options. In support of this the Welsh Government transformation policy has stimulated and supported a number of **further education institution mergers** across Wales. Successfully completed mergers have enabled Welsh Government to achieve a reduction from 20 in 2009 to 8-12 during 2013, a year ahead of the target recommended in the Report of the Independent Task and Finish Group on Structure of Education Services in Wales.

The aim of the policy is to develop and implement an education and training system that offers a wide range of learning opportunities; is responsive to all learners and employers; ensures effective use of resources for learner benefit; and tackles disadvantage. Implementation of this policy has provided outcomes including greater effectiveness and efficiency, increased flexibility and more integrated delivery across all education provider sectors.


Further education college mergers have increased the capacity within colleges to give high quality learning opportunities and enabled closer collaboration across the post-16 sector. Best practice in areas such as quality assurance, use of data, Welsh Language and provision for students with special educational needs has been spread across the merged institutions making the combined organisations stronger. Mergers have also given cost saving efficiency gains which have been reinvested into the institutions for the benefit of learners, businesses and the local community. This also means that these larger institutions are stronger financially and able to adapt and manage to the current challenges in funding while still delivering a wide ranging, high quality provision to learners.

As most mergers are fairly recent the positive impacts that have already been seen will develop further and continue to drive the improvement in quality in learner provision and learning experience into the future.

We do not want people in Wales to end their educational aspirations after finishing school, college or University but continue onwards into later life. Launched in September 2012, **Academi Wales** seeks to build a future for Wales where leadership of our public services is visionary, collaborative, world class, and successful in driving improvements in the lives of people living in Wales.



Academi Wales provides an environment for leaders to work together to further develop strategic thinking and systems leadership capabilities and to identify adaptive solutions to pan sector issues that are of relevance now and for the long term. This is particularly relevant in the context of the development of legislation in relation to embedding sustainable development across the public service.



Research suggests that future leaders will need to be adaptive, be able to think and plan at a systemic level and be personally resilient. Future leaders will lead an unprecedented scale of complex change and will be required to deliver true partnership working across sectors, building and maintaining robust and mature networks of relationships whilst maintaining an increased focus on improvement, productivity, safety and innovation.

Academi Wales helps harness the talent of leaders across a wide range of professional areas and disciplines to drive forward public organisations to improve services for the long term whilst reducing costs.

The Academi Wales Advisory Board consists of members from across our public services to provide advice on sectoral priorities and to enable connection with local networks, whilst advising on key leadership challenges and opportunities in Wales. This assists Academi Wales in facilitating the development of emerging priority leadership skills and capabilities, built on principles of collaboration and partnership.

The Academi Wales Advisory Board members help to guide the research and development activity undertaken through Academi Wales to ensure focused horizon scanning and futures thinking, which in turn helps ensure effective use of resources.



Chapter 5

Supporting children, families and deprived communities

The Welsh Government is committed to having a fair and equal society where people can make the most of their abilities to progress through life without hindrance. Wales faces long-term challenges and these are highlighted within the Programme for Government including: advancing equality of opportunity and tackling discrimination, having more inclusive and cohesive communities; providing users and carers with a stronger voice and greater control over the services they receive; ensuring people receive the help they need to live fulfilled lives; reducing the level of crime and fear of crime; and providing high quality and affordable housing.

These measures we are taking are aimed at ensuring the longer-term view of ensuring equality is at the heart of everything that we do and aims to address the challenges that we face.

Tackling Poverty Action Plan

The Tackling Poverty Action Plan, launched in July 2013, sets out the targets and milestones we want to achieve across all areas of Government to improve outcomes for people from low income households.

We have identified six areas where we believe we can make a real difference – early years; breaking the link between poverty and educational attainment; reducing the number of young people not in employment, education or training; reducing the number of non-working households through the Lift Programme; addressing health inequalities; and targeting housing and regeneration. We will set out our progress in these key areas in the first Tackling Poverty Action Plan Annual Report, to be published on 2 July.

Supporting young families in need

The **Families First** programme has established the following national Population Outcomes, along with a number of underlying indicators, which local authorities should work towards when designing projects to support children, young people and their families, taking account of local needs at the same time:

- Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment.
- Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential.
- Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being.
- Families are confident, nurturing, resilient, and safe.



The programme allows for a large degree of local determination in the identification of projects to support children, young people, and their families.

Family Support Account Managers meet regularly with local authorities to discuss progress in addressing local needs and in meeting these Outcomes. Local authorities also submit an annual report detailing the progress they have made. The programme promotes the development by local authority areas of effective multi-agency systems and support, with a clear emphasis on prevention and early intervention for families, particularly those living in poverty. In this way the programme seeks to prevent families' issues escalating to the extent where they require more intensive and more costly interventions.

Families First is the Welsh Government's response to the three strategic objectives of the Child Poverty Strategy: to reduce the number of families living in workless households; to improve skills of parents/carers and young people living in low-income households; and to reduce inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes.

Additionally, local authorities are expected to develop projects that respond to locally identified needs that are relevant to the aims of the programme in responding to the Child Poverty Strategy. Local authorities are also encouraged to work closely with their colleagues in Flying Start and Communities First in order to align the programmes as far as possible.

Through the implementation of five-year Action Plans all local authorities are expected to develop and implement the five key elements of the programme, designed to effect fundamental change in the systems supporting children, young people, and their families.

In 2013, the Welsh Government worked with stakeholders to identify performance measures to evidence the extent of systems change taking place. This includes representation on the relevant steering groups from local authorities, Local Health Boards, and the Third sector.

The National Evaluation of Families First will provide vital evidence on the implementation and impact of the programme. The first evaluation report, published in December 2013, provided information on the progress of the programme in its first year. A further two annual reports are due under the evaluation programme. In addition, the evaluation team have created a Managed Learning Environment for Families First teams and stakeholders to identify and share good practice across the 22 local authorities in Wales.

Giving families a flying start



Flying Start is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children less than four years of age living in some of the most deprived areas in Wales. **Flying Start** aims to address inequalities in social, cognitive, and emotional development of children growing up in poorer families by a programme of early intervention to children and families in Flying Start areas.

Working with local authorities, the following three Outcomes were agreed in 2011 for Flying Start, underpinned by a number of Population Indicators:

- Flying Start Children are Healthy and Thriving.
- Flying Start Families are Capable and Coping.
- Flying Start Children are Reaching potential.

We have also worked closely with local authorities, to establish relevant monitoring requirements.

The Welsh Government is committed to a staged expansion to increase the number of children under the age of 4, and their families, benefitting from the programme from 18,000 to 36,000 by 2016. In 2012 -2013, 23,579 children benefited from Flying Start Health Visitor services, exceeding the target for the first year of expansion.

In terms of planning for long term prevention, all local authorities have provided the Welsh Government with their three-year Strategic Delivery Plans, which explain how they will implement the programme and its key entitlements (including expansion) for 2014-15.

Local authorities are also encouraged to work closely with their colleagues in Families First and Communities First in order to align the programmes as far as possible and to help further the projects in place to improve the well-being of the children its aimed at helping, through integrating other Welsh Government initiatives.

Sustainable development places an emphasis on involving citizens in the decisions that affect them so that they can place an active part in society. Local authorities have a duty to **promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in decisions that might affect them**. The legal basis for this duty is Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. This duty is based upon the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular the right of all children and young people to be listened to, to be treated with respect and to have their race and cultural identity recognised.

The engagement of young people in the decisions that will impact on their lives now and in the future is a crucial element of sustainable development. This approach aims to ensure that Local Authorities consider the impact of their decisions in the long term as well as more immediately.

In December 2012, the statutory guidance for developing Single Integrated Plans, 'Shared Purpose-Shared Delivery', was re-issued to include the statutory guidance for children and young people's participation and officials will visit all 22 local authorities as part of the Welsh Government commitment to monitoring local arrangements for children and young people's participation.

The **Children and Families Delivery Grant** will also support the involvement of children and young people in decision making. The grant aims to reduce inequalities in health, education and economic outcomes for children living in poverty. One of the priorities for the

grant is that systemic opportunities for children and young people to participate in decisions that affect them and have their voices heard are increased.

High-quality youth work has a crucial role to play supporting many young people to achieve their full potential. Through informal educational approaches, effective youth work practice builds the capacity and resilience of young people and can change young people's lives for the better.

The **National Youth Work Strategy for Wales** was published in February 2014. It aims to elevate the status of youth work as both a service and a profession. It also sets out how Youth Work can support the Welsh Government's priorities of narrowing the gap in educational achievement and reducing the number of young people who are not engaged in education, employment and training. These priorities support the overall aims of sustainable development.

There is a strong emphasis on preventative action and on the needs of future generations. This is supplemented by support for effective joint working at the economic (skills focused) and social (care/youth service) levels. The Strategy is based upon effective engagement practices.

The new strategy strives to achieve three key outcomes:

- ensuring that young people across Wales continue to have access to diverse formal and non-formal learning opportunities that stretch their horizons and help them grow in confidence.
- strengthening the relationship between youth work organisations in Wales and formal education on both a local and national basis. This will support positive outcomes for young people in mainstream education and training and narrow the educational achievement gap.
- a better co-ordinated and more consistent youth work offer to young people, with youth work organisations in the statutory and voluntary sector working together more effectively.

Key to the overall success of the strategy will be the ability to demonstrate the long term impact and outcomes of youth work. A National Outcomes Framework will be developed for this purpose. A strengthened and robust evidence base on the impact of youth work is vital to inform and drive the development of a more consistent and high quality national youth work offer across Wales.

Supporting young people in legal proceedings

From time to time children may have to interact with the Court Service in Wales in family court cases. The outcome of the **Family Justice Review** was that CAFCASS Cymru should continue to provide separate representation for children in relevant family proceedings in Wales. This should ensure that appropriate advice would be provided to the courts and ensure the wishes and feelings of the child are made known to the courts. It is intended that this approach improves the longer term outcomes for children in Wales.

Delays in the process have been highlighted as a fundamental issue in terms of meeting children's short and long term needs. Actions taken forward from the Family Justice Review have reduced the average time taken to complete Public Law family proceedings from 56 weeks to fewer than 34 weeks.

The introduction of the statutory six month time limit for most care proceedings cases came into effect in April. The outcome of court proceedings for the child will be driven by the care plan drawn up by the local authority in conjunction with the child and the child's parents or guardian to work towards achieving the permanency that the care plan will recommend. However, children's needs will alter over time and the care plan should be kept under constant review in order to ensure that the wishes and feelings of the child are considered.

Preventing domestic abuse across Wales

Sadly, families across Wales continue to be affected by incidences of domestic abuse. The Welsh Government recognises that domestic abuse can happen in all kinds of intimate relationships, and may be experienced through physical, sexual or emotional actions. We are determined to work collaboratively with key stakeholders and enforcing agencies to help **identify and prevent all forms of domestic abuse**, making sure that perpetrators are held to account and offer support to victims.

The consequences of domestic abuse can cause long term harm to victims, their families and wider society. Identifying early symptoms is an important preventative step to limit these harms. Through a Welsh Government sponsored project key health, social care and education are working collaboratively to secure a long term outcome of increasing the number of people who are safer or who feel safer. As a result of this intervention over 3,200 victims considered themselves to be safer, or to feel safer, in response, at least in part, to Welsh Government funded support in 2011-2012 and 2012-13.

We are also progressing three areas for immediate action under the project:

- All public service organisations in Wales have now implemented or reviewed their workplace policies on domestic abuse, violence against women and sexual violence.
- Good practice guidance and funding has been issued to Local Authorities to establish service user groups, by March 2014, to enable them to influence service design and delivery.
- Work on information sharing is being taken forward as part of the wider Public Service Leadership Group commitment to make it easier to share information to protect vulnerable people.

Prevention and strengthening services for all victims are priorities for the forthcoming legislation on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The Bill will support our intention for relevant public bodies to address violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in a coordinated and coherent manner, and specifically to address preventative, protective and supportive aspects.

We are also in the process of developing a National Training Framework for Wales on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence which provides consistent training for all key public sector and specialist service provider professionals across Wales.

Providing quality, affordable housing for all



One aim for the Welsh Government is to create more **affordable and quality housing** and over the past year there have been many projects to further this. These range from a continued and established social housing grant programme to new ways of funding affordable housing taking the long term view. For example, the Housing Finance Grant is a new source of funding for the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) sector in Wales where Welsh Government are committing to £4 million per year for the next

30 years to part fund the borrowing associated with RSL's development of new affordable homes. The funding will bring forward approximately 1,000 new affordable homes.

We continue to support the delivery of affordable housing across Wales with our social housing grant programme and also through a range of innovative funding methods. We support Rural Housing Enabler projects in a number of predominantly Welsh speaking areas that identify local affordable housing need and support both communities and housing organisations to deliver housing to meet that need.

It is important that the provision of affordable housing in Welsh speaking areas across Wales is at the appropriate levels to ensure that there is sustainable housing for local housing need. This will help prevent the loss of indigenous Welsh speakers in rural Wales and also support local jobs and growth. The Rural Housing Enabler projects will sometimes work with rural communities for some years to achieve a required housing outcome. The Rural Housing Enabler projects engage very strongly with communities and will work to provide housing solutions in conjunction with those communities.

Care and Repair Services

The Welsh Government also plays a role in supporting the maintenance of homes after they are built. **Care and Repair services** continue to provide assistance to older people in private sector housing to help them to carry out improvements, including adaptations, which enable them to remain in their own homes independently. This often avoids the requirement for supervised care, reducing the burden on the National Health Service and Social Services.

The Welsh Government protected funding for Care and Repair front-line services in 2013-2014 as far as possible. However, it was inevitable that future funding would come under pressure. The budget for Care and Repair for 2014-2015 has been cut by 10%, and we are working closely with the sector to ensure that frontline services are not adversely affected by these cuts.

The major review into all home adaptations, initially announced in the Housing White Paper, has recently commenced and is expected to report in autumn 2014. It will look at the full range of adaptations services that are currently provided, including those accessed through Care and Repair and will identify what, if any, improvements should be made to the existing arrangements for adaptations; in particular whether services can be streamlined, and processes simplified for service users.

Preventing homelessness

For too many people having the comfort of a secure and stable home is not an available option. To help people manage the ten year Homelessness plan has been taken forward through the Housing Bill and preventing homelessness is one of the two major elements of the Bill. The Housing Bill was introduced in November 2013. It has passed Stage 1 scrutiny with Stage 2 about to start. In addition, a major review of the Homelessness Grant programme was commissioned and is due to report in May 2014. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the deployment of the programme's budget is deployed in a way that is aligned with the prevention focus of the proposed legislation, and thus support the sustainability of accommodation for vulnerable people.

The Welsh Government invests £134 million in the Supporting People Programme Budget which, in recognition of its impact on the aims of the Programme for Government, has not faced the significant reductions that many other revenue budgets have faced for 2014/15. The Programme is focussed on engaging the most vulnerable in Wales, providing essential support to around 70,000 people who find themselves threatened with homelessness or in difficult personal circumstances, enabling them to find or keep their homes and supporting them to re-establish their independence in an effort to help them long term.

Gypsies and Travellers are one of the most disadvantaged groups in Welsh society, experiencing high levels of poverty, high rates of infant mortality, low life expectancy and low educational achievement. By helping to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites that are fit for purpose, we are helping not only to improve living conditions on sites in the long term but also improving equality of opportunity and equal access to services to prevent these significant problems from manifesting in future.

The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant was established in 2007 to help bring the existing site network up to a decent habitable standard. Since the grant's inception in 2007-08 to 2013/14, the outcome has been that 44 sites have benefited from the Welsh Government's Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant. The Welsh Government is seeking to continue this trend as there are still sites across Wales in need of urgent refurbishment work.

Welsh Government officials engage closely with local authorities to inform them of future funding available in order for them to consult with residents on local authority sites to develop a strategic plan of refurbishment work required. Each refurbishment project is aimed at the longer term as essential works carried out have long lasting benefits to residents such as improved living conditions, health and safety, community cohesion to name a few.

The proposals submitted by local authorities for refurbishment projects are as a direct result of investigatory work on evidence of need by the local authority and, most importantly, consultation with residents who help shape the strategy for future refurbishment projects.

Tackling hate crimes and incidents across Wales

The Welsh Government has been developing '**Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents: A Framework for Action**'. This aims to tackle hostility and prejudice faced by people because of their protected characteristics of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and age.

The Framework aims to achieve the long term outcome that 'individuals and communities are enabled to be resilient, cohesive and safe to tackle hate incidents and crimes'. The Framework is underpinned by three strategic objectives of prevention, supporting victims and improving multi-agency working. The focus on prevention is intended to drive long term change, challenge stereotypes and improve understanding of people across different backgrounds and cultures.

A draft Framework was consulted on during July to November 2013 and there were 120 responses across Wales. The consultation version of the Framework was developed with a Task and Finish Group of 22 organisations, 5 focus groups across the protected characteristics and an on-line survey which had 127 responses. Further engagement took place during the consultation between July to October 2013 and there were 120 written responses; face to face engagement took place through 5 Consultation events with partners across Wales, as well as a further 19 focus groups and meetings.

The Framework has been built upon clear evidence from a range of sources and emerging data from an All Wales Hate Crime Research project through Cardiff University and Race Equality First which provides views of victims. The Welsh Government also identified a research gap during the development of the Framework where a study was commissioned through Cardiff University into 'Who Commits Hate Crimes and Why They Do It' which explored motivations of perpetrators.

In tackling more general types of crime, the **Youth Crime Prevention Fund** (formerly the Safer Communities Fund) continues to provide funding to support schemes aimed at diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour and reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system, and reoffending. All projects must deliver collaborative outcomes which meet national and local priorities across a broad range of priority areas such as child poverty, mental health, domestic abuse and substance misuse projects and schemes.

The fund moved to a regional footprint model across six Regional Footprint Partnerships from April 2013 and this approach is continuing into 2014-2015. Regional collaboration and partnership working will enable Community Safety Partnerships and Youth Offending Teams to share good practice and contribute towards more effective use of public money through greater efficiency savings.



The Welsh Government will produce a new **national community cohesion delivery programme** in Spring 2014, which will highlight tackling hate crime as a key outcome. This includes a cross section of seven key outcomes across hate crime, modern slavery, inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller communities, immigration, Communities First Clusters, mainstreaming and community mapping and tension monitoring.

The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty announced additional funding from 2014-16 for regional community cohesion co-ordinators across Wales. These posts are based within local authorities and will be working towards the delivery of the national programme and to ensure that community cohesion can remain sustainable and embedded, whilst being responsive to localised need. The delivery of the national programme aims to support the development of the Equality Act 2010 which places a duty upon public sector authorities to promote good relations and to tackle discrimination.

The community cohesion programme aims to support the development of greater engagement across the seven outcome areas throughout communities and partners. This includes Co-ordinators identifying and embedding sustainable structures and processes across Wales to enable the delivery of the programme beyond 2016.

The development of the community cohesion programme is supported by an external evaluation undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University through the delivery of 'Getting on Together – A Community cohesion Strategy for Wales' in 2011. This highlighted the need to create sustainability through the programme to ensure there will be a lasting legacy for the long term and highlighted the importance of Community Cohesion Posts to enable delivery based upon localised need.

Improving the communities we live in

The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty announced in December 2013 a further two years funding for **Community Cohesion Coordinators** across Wales. In Spring 2014 we will publish the Work Programme for the Cohesion programme for 2014-16 which will aim to promote good relations and to increase shared values, tolerance and understanding across communities in Wales.

The programme focuses on working within the local context to understand communities and to put in place preventative measures to tackle tensions and to increase understanding and resilience. The focus is on mainstreaming the programme to ensure that there are sustainable structures in place across local authorities to continue the programme forward in the longer term through Single Integrated Plans and Strategic Equality Plans.

The Community Cohesion strategy – ‘Getting on Together’ – underwent an evaluation which was published in 2013. A key recommendation focussed on enhancing the sustainability of the programme, which highlighted the need for Community Cohesion Co-ordinators and for a new national work programme to take forward delivery and in turn, both of these recommendations have been taken forward.

Putting communities first

This programme is a Community Focussed Tackling Poverty Programme with three strategic outcomes: Healthy, Learning & Prosperous Communities. The programme supports the 10 % most deprived areas in Wales with the long term aim of contributing to alleviating persistent poverty. There are 52 Communities First areas, known as Clusters which relate to around 24 % of the population and together have been awarded £75 million up to March 2015.

Clusters offer a range of activities aimed at helping people develop new skills, retrain or access employment, for example, through workshops, mentoring and job clubs. The programme also helps people to improve their health and the projects are medium to long term with overall long term outcomes.

The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty announced in November 2013 the extension of the programme for the life of the current Government subject to an evaluation and future budgetary constraints.



Each Cluster has a Delivery Plan which outlines the work of the Cluster. Data from the Delivery Plans is entered into a performance management system where progress against targets is recorded and measured. The Communities First Outcomes Framework has been developed to provide a consistent set of performance indicators. The Framework is based on the Result Based Accountability Model, emphasises the role of community involvement and determines whether ‘anyone is better off’ as a result.

'Community Involvement' is a central theme and each Cluster must demonstrate close working with partners to ensure good engagement with communities and service providers. Each Cluster has a Community Involvement Plan, which is regularly revised to ensure that local people play a full part in the programme. The range of activities undertaken by Clusters supports work being undertaken across Welsh Government portfolios including Health, Housing and Regeneration, Education, Equalities, Digital Inclusion, Financial Inclusion and Business and Technology with the over arching aim of Tackling Poverty.

The Welsh Government has long recognised that local post offices in Wales provide a range of vital products and services which help the long term sustainability of our communities. These include free access to cash and banking services and often a variety of basic foodstuffs and household essentials. The local post office is at the centre of the community and can also provide a valuable social outlet for elderly and vulnerable individuals. It is often the only shop in the community.

Protecting our Post Offices

The **Post Office Development Fund** seeks to improve the sustainability of local post offices (and therefore local communities) by improving the retail side of the post office business. Grants are available at two levels – up to £5k and up to £20k. The grants can be used for improvements to the post office to help it to introduce new products and services to be fit for the future. The programme will run up to the end of March 2015 and its final funding round closed on 29 November 2013.

To date post offices in over 400 Welsh communities have benefitted from Post Office Development Fund grants worth £6.4 million.

Helping people manage money

In March 2014, the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty announced funding of almost £1.9 m to support **Credit Unions** over the next three years. This funding will be used to enable Credit Unions to provide support to financially excluded people who may not be able to access mainstream financial products. Long term, the Welsh Government wants to see a sustainable Credit Union Movement in Wales which is able to support financially excluded individuals to access financial services and products. As providers of basic financial services, we consider credit unions to be key contributors to our objectives on tackling poverty and financial exclusion.

The intention is that by accessing help from a credit union, advice can be also given to those who need it on basic financial skills, preventing the need, for instance, to go to a high interest lender and getting further into debt.

To extend membership further, we have supported a national television campaign to raise awareness of Credit Unions as an affordable alternative finance provider for smaller value loans. We are also encouraging public sector Credit Union membership, across local authorities, local health board and the education sector, using accessible methods such as payroll deduction. Overall, our aim is to support Credit Unions to achieve 6 per cent market penetration by 2020.



Credit Union membership in Wales currently stands at over 70,000, including junior savers. The number of financially excluded members helped as part of the 'Access to financial products through Credit Unions' is 33,824.