
This factsheet is intended to provide information to public bodies on the opportunities and relationship between the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

What is the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (“the SSWA”)?

The SSWA establishes the legislative framework for transforming the way people’s needs for care and support and carers needs for support are met and to make social services in Wales sustainable.

When carrying out functions under the SSWA, everyone must seek to promote the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support. The SSWA promotes people’s independence by requiring practitioners to have regard to people’s individual views and support them to participate in decisions that affect them.

The SSWA will promote equality, improve the quality of services and enhance access to the provision of information people receive. It will also encourage a renewed focus on prevention and early intervention.

The SSWA is available at:

More information on the SSWA is available on the Care Council for Wales Information and Learning Hub Getting in on the Act. This is available at

What is the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (“the WFG Act”)?

The WFG Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Those public bodies listed at section 6 of the WFG Act are required to carry out sustainable development as defined at section 2 of the WFG Act. The actions that a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development must include setting and publishing well-being objectives which are designed to maximise the contribution of each public body towards achieving the seven well-being goals set out in the WFG Act. Each public body listed in section 6 of the WFG Act is required to take all reasonable steps to meet their respective well-being objectives and in turn work towards achieving the well-being goals.

Part 4 of the WFG Act provides for the establishment of Public Services Boards, and a collective duty on certain organisations to jointly contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the local area.

The WFG Act is available at:

Guidance under the Act is available at:
How do they work together to make Wales a better place?

The individual’s well-being is a key part of the wider concept of well-being used in the WFG Act, which encompasses environmental, social, economic and cultural well-being.

The WFG Act provides for a set of integrated well-being goals for Wales. In addition to a specific well-being goal of a ‘healthier Wales’, which describes a society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised, there are strong links to the aspirations of the SSWA in other goals such as ‘a more equal Wales’ and ‘a Wales of cohesive communities’.

In working to achieve these goals, each public body subject to the well-being duty is required to carry out sustainable development, and to this end, the WFG Act sets out a sustainable development principle. Overall, there is a common emphasis in both Acts on prevention, collaboration, integration, involvement and adopting a long term approach to the improvement of public services.

How can they work together in practice?

Both Acts also set expectations and requirements that public bodies work together to improve outcomes for people; recognising that the needs of individuals, families and communities are met by multiple organisations.

Assessing the well-being of the area

Section 14 of the SSWA requires local authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly carry out an assessment of the needs for care and support and support needs of carers in a local authority area. Regulations under section 166 of the SSWA establish partnership arrangements between the Local Health Board and the local authorities in their area to allow for the production of a combined population assessment report on the Local Health Board footprint.

The Care and Support (Population Assessments) (Wales) Regulations 2015 under section 14 of the SSWA are available at:

The Care and Support (Partnership Arrangements for Population Assessments) (Wales) Regulations 2015 under section 166 of the SSWA are available at:

Chapter 2 of the Code of Practice in relation to Part 2 of the SSWA sets out these requirements in more detail. The Code is available at:

The WFG Act requires public services boards to prepare and publish an assessment of local well-being for the local authority area. The ‘population assessment’ which is required to be produced by section 14 of the SSWA is one of a number of statutory reviews and assessments which the public services board must take into account when preparing their assessment. It will sit alongside a range of other evidence of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.

In addition to looking at the general well-being of the area, the assessment of local well-being that public services boards are required to undertake will need to look specifically at
the well-being of the people in the area. People who may have needs for care and support, or people who provide or intend to provide care and support, are identified as one of the categories of persons a board may wish to include in their analysis.

The first population assessment is required by April 2017, the first assessment of wellbeing will need to be produced by May 2017. This means the gathering of evidence can be done once, and analysed for both purposes. It would be counter-productive to gather this evidence twice, and duplicate the process.

Working in partnership

Regional Partnership Boards are established under the SSWA at the Local Health Board area level to drive the integration of health and social services and to plan and ensure the delivery of integrated, innovative care and support services to best meet the needs of people in response to the population assessment. They will be ideally placed to ensure prudent approaches to care and support.

Regional Partnership Boards are required to prioritise the integration of services in relation to:

- Older people with complex needs and long term conditions including dementia.
- People with learning disabilities.
- Carers including young carers
- Integration of children’s services.

Regional Partnership Boards will need to ensure that all partners work effectively together to improve outcomes for people with care and support needs, and carers with support needs, in their local area. They will need to ensure that services and resources are used in the most effective and efficient way to facilitate this. An integrated approach to the commissioning and provision of services will assist both the local authorities and Local Health Boards to exercise greater influence over the shape and delivery of services.

Public Services Boards established under the WFG Act sit at the local authority area level and will involve a wider range of stakeholders (including the Fire and Rescue Authorities, Natural Resources Wales and, it is hoped, police and certain kinds of probation service providers) and will go beyond individual well-being to look strategically at the wider economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area. They will identify locally a small number of priorities for collective action across the area; which may or may not include care and support issues.

It is recognised, and envisaged, that these two boards will complement each other rather than work in isolation – building on areas of common interest.

Planning in response to the assessments

Under the WFG Act, Public Services Boards will produce a local well-being plan setting local objectives (designed to maximise contribution to the well-being goals) and the steps it proposes to take to meet these objectives. The objectives will be identified by the boards with regard to the matters raised in the assessment of local well-being.

Section 14A of the SSWA requires local authorities and Local Health Boards that have carried out a joint population assessment under section 14 of the SSWA to prepare and publish an area/joint area plan setting out how they intend to respond to the assessment. It would be possible and desirable to publish this plan by including it within a
local well-being plan, but there is also scope for local authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly publish a plan; for two or local authorities to jointly prepare and publish a plan; or for each local authority and Local Health Board to publish their own plan. Regulations and guidance are currently being prepared which strongly recommends the production of a joint area plan between the local authorities in a Local Health Board area and the Local Health Board. It would be a natural progression of the policy legislated for in the *Care and Support (Population Assessments) (Wales) Regulations 2015* requiring the production of a joint population assessment that the detail of the area plans arising from the population assessment reports is similarly legislated for.