

Shaping Wales' future: using national indicators and milestones to measure our nation's progress

Response form:

Powys County Council

1. National milestones

Q1: Do you agree with the 2 proposed national milestones for indicator No.8: Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestones?

While there might be an ambition for Wales to increase people's skills level and higher-level qualifications - does this actually match the need? Are there sufficient job opportunities in Wales for higher skilled work? Current evidence is telling us that there is a shortage of workers, such as carers and HGV drivers, yet there is a focus on constantly supporting and measuring higher level qualifications and academic skills.

*Also, not all skilled work requires qualifications and the training needed for some skilled occupations is not covered by the NQF.

Whilst setting Level 3 as a target/base line in relation to qualifications, consideration needs to be given to 'skills development' as well as academia so that those who are not academic achieve in a field where excellent practical skills are needed. We need to be careful that Apprenticeships don't become another form of A Level.

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

Q2: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.22 Percentage of people in education, employment or training (in different age groups)?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestone?

No change proposed.

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

Q3: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.21 Percentage of people in employment?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestone?

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

Remove the UK level as a benchmark and set our own fixed target. UK levels may drop or increase, and if they do would that mean Wales has been successful (if they drop) or unsuccessful (if they rise) in this milestone?

The overall aim of reducing the gap between Wales and the rest of the UK employment rates needs to take into account:

- How much of the current gap is due to historic employment in heavy industries that will fade overtime?

- How much this aim conflicts with other aims – an example being you could raise employment among new parents (mostly female) but this might lead to worse outcomes elsewhere.

- Raising employment rates can be achieved by lowering productivity (eg: it might be better to invest in high level technology, but doing so might make some people unemployed. Car washes are a very simple example of this. Hand car washes increase employment, but it might be better to just have some automatic machines).

Is the number of persons in “employment” important if the employment means that they are still not able to pay their bills?

Does the definition of the milestone consider zero-hour contracts, contract length (e.g. short term or permanent) and working hours (e.g. part time work), as this significantly impacts on whether it matches the ambition that people are participating in ‘good quality, sustainable work’ with ‘with long-term prospects’.

Should there also be more specific targets included for the raising participation of under-represented groups element of the milestone.

Q4: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for Indicator No.17 - Pay Equality – for gender, ethnicity and disability?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestone?

It isn't compulsory for employees to disclose any of these characteristics so there is a constant debate over the value in the data. More needs to be done nationally to promote the value of disclosing this information and the purpose.

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

Q5: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.5 Percentage of children who have fewer than 2 healthy lifestyle behaviours?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestone?

Could the milestone be flipped to be more positive i.e. to increase the % of children with more than 2 health behaviours.

It is recognised that children don't all have the same start in life and there may be specific barriers for those accessing statutory services and have experienced poverty, deprivation and trauma. Any measures created need to consider children with disabilities and how this groups needs can be made visible.

It was felt that age appropriate education regarding health and wellbeing should be provided to all children universally – whilst recognised that some are disadvantaged and require addition services/support.

The healthy lifestyle behaviours identified are appropriate but would be strengthened if they included sleep. Sleeping is known to be a key factor in determining emotional and physical health during childhood and adolescence.

There are concerns regarding isolation for those in rural areas which has been compounded by Covid-19. Therefore, a focus on mental health is critical at this time. This should include access to safe play areas, including green spaces.

In regard to alcohol as an identified lifestyle behaviour, it is felt that this could be linked to substance use. However, considerations of childrens exploration of alcohol and substances should be considered within an adolescent period which includes experimentation. The costs of substances and accessibility is a current issue seen in practice with those accessing services.

The importance of youth services / detached youth work is regarded as of high importance to support young people during adolescence. Wider matter relating to rurality remain pertinent to this milestone – including the accessibility of transportation.

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

Q6: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.14 Ecological Footprint of Wales?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestone?

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

We would suggest that the word 'fair share' needs to be more SMART.

How accurate is this indicator/ milestone and what does it really tell us? We propose something more specific around energy use and food miles etc would be more helpful.

Q7: Do you agree with adopting the existing Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions target as a national milestone?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestone?

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

Q8: Do you agree with adopting the existing Cymraeg 2050 target of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050 as a national milestone?

Yes

No

a) If yes, but you would like some changes, what would you change about the proposed national milestone?

Could there be something about the number of Welsh speakers who actively use the Welsh Language, rather than those who just state they can speak Welsh (this could be such a wide spectrum).

Also satisfaction with accessibility to services in Welsh for Welsh speakers.

b) If no, please provide evidence for what a more suitable national milestone for Wales would be.

Q9: How do you think we should communicate the national milestones and national well-being indicators with the people and communities of Wales?

How interested are people about knowing about these milestones and indicators?

Why would we communicate them, what value would it add?

Q10: We are keen to gather evidence on the potential impacts and opportunities of achieving all the national milestones, and in particular, any dependencies between them. For example, there could be unintended consequences of making progress towards achieving a national milestone on another national milestone, or opportunities to deliver wider benefits between national milestones. Please use this space to provide evidence of these connections and interdependencies.

In setting the milestones, are WG confident that there is actual work progressing in these areas to deliver the change and impact required. i.e. are there current planned policies and plans/projects at a local level

A lot of the targets are very long term (2050), will there be shorter term targets set for each milestone also?

2. National indicators

Mode of travel

Q11: Do you think an indicator on mode of travel should be added to the existing national indicator set?

Yes

No

a) If "Yes", please provide the idea(s) or concept(s) you would like the indicator to capture?

b) If "No", why would this not form an appropriate indicator?

c) Are you aware of a data source(s) that could be used to measure this indicator?

Minimum digital living standard

Q12: Do you think an indicator on a minimum digital living standard should be added to the existing indicator set?

Yes

No

a) If "Yes", please provide the idea(s) or concept(s) you would like the indicator to capture?

We would suggest it needs to capture; connectivity, tools e.g. devices, digital skills and accessibility. It would be an indicator that has strong links with our anti poverty strategies. Anti- poverty strategies should include a commitment to supporting digital inclusion. It will be hard to set a standard as this will vary but I think it has to start with accessibility and skills.

b) If "No", why would this not form an appropriate indicator?

c) Are you aware of a data source(s) that could be used to measure this indicator?

To start with a review on Digital inclusion should be completed to determine the key measures. This will enable us to create a baseline for what it means to be 'Digitally

included'. Without this picture and agreed baseline we are in danger of identifying the wrong measures.

Indicator 33 - Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance

(measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure)

Q13: Do you think indicator 33 “percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance” should be changed?

Yes

No

a) If “Yes”, please provide the idea(s) or concept(s) you would like the indicator to capture?

b) If “No”, why shouldn’t the indicator be changed?

c) Are you aware of a data source(s) that could be used to measure this indicator?

Additional gaps to the national indicator set

Q14: We would also welcome your views on any further gaps you feel the COVID-19 pandemic may have highlighted in the way we measure progress towards our well-being goals?

If you would like to propose an additional indicator, please provide the following information:

- What is the name of the proposed indicator?
- What is the data source for this indicator?
- Please provide an explanation for why this indicator best measures the well-being of Wales
- Which well-being goals does the indicator directly impact on?

[No additional comments to add currently.](#)

Q15: We would like to know your views on the effects that this policy would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Q16: Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Q17: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

[No further comments to add.](#)

Responses to consultations may be made public. To keep your response anonymous (including email addresses) tick the box.

Keep my response anonymous

Email completed form to: ShapingWalesFuture@gov.wales

Deadline: midnight 26 October 2021