



Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystem Duty Report 2019



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For further information on the content of this report, please e-mail Public Health Wales’ Health and Sustainability Hub: publichealth.sustainability@wales.nhs.uk

Introduction and Context

Public Health Wales is one of the 11 organisations which makes up NHS Wales. We are the national public health agency in Wales, and work to protect and improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities for the people of Wales. You can read more about the organisation, including our response to the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* (WFG Act), in the Annual Report. <https://phw.nhs.wales/about-us/annual-report/>

The organisation, which has an estate of 59 properties across Wales, is a public body in the WFG Act. Not being a statutory member of public services boards (PSBs), our work with PSBs is carried out through Local Public Health Teams.

Public Health Wales has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with Natural Resources Wales to enable greater collaboration, add value to existing ways of working, and support a joint approach to the delivery of respective well-being objectives.

Our biodiversity plan, *'Making Space for Nature'*, has five areas for action for the organisation to support nature: Engaging and supporting our staff; Sustainable procurement; Developing our estate;

Our Environmental Sustainability Programme; and, Supporting other public bodies in Wales.

As well as these five action areas, our plan highlights how we have applied the sustainable development principle, through its five ways of working, to developing the document, and illustrates how the actions contribute to both the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales and the organisation's seven Strategic Priorities/Well-being Objectives (below).

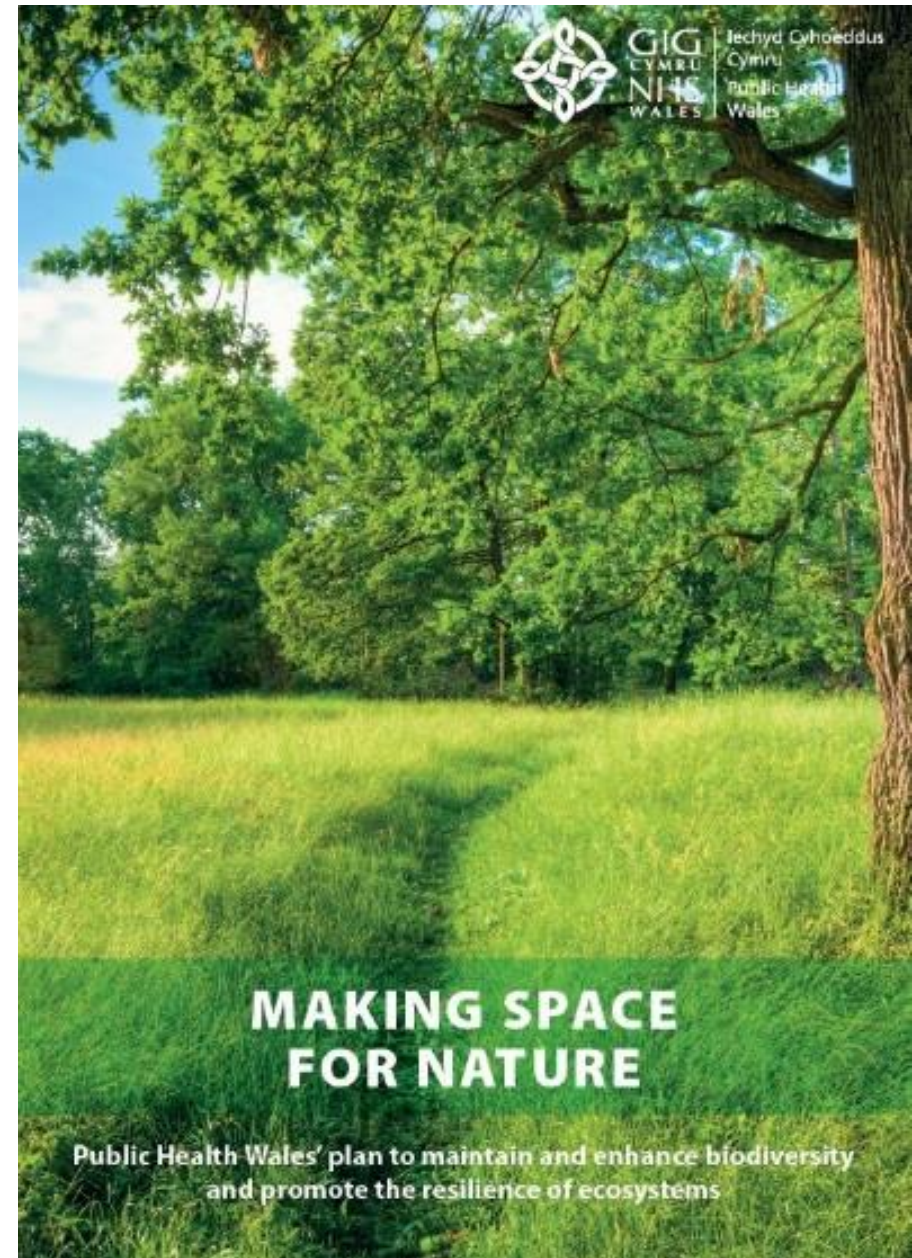
Public Health Wales' biodiversity plan (and reporting) is sponsored and overseen by the organisation's Senior Leadership Team.



Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues

- ‘Be the Change’ staff movement for individual-level behaviour change, with resources on a number of environmental sustainability themes
- Work underway across all five areas of organisation’s biodiversity plan >>
- A range of work to assist other public bodies in Wales to support biodiversity
- A number of case-studies, including four highlighted in this report

Public Health Wales’ Biodiversity Plan



Engaging and supporting our staff

In December 2019, we will be holding a lunch and learn for our staff with Food Cardiff to promote food sustainability and waste reduction. This will include the use of Skype for Business for colleagues across Wales. Our Staff Health and Well-being Team have also provided support for 'Well-being Links' – staff health and well-being champions across the organisation - who wish to work on the sustainability agenda.

Our Health and Sustainability Hub has published and is promoting a range of e-guides to provide staff with sustainable steps which we can all take to 'Be the Change' for Wales' well-being goals. These resources are targeting individual-level behaviour change in the workplace, and do not require management sign-off. The guides are on themes of Welsh and global concern, including sustainable travel, reducing energy and waste, organising sustainable meetings and events, Fairtrade, and reducing plastics.



To supplement the e-guides, we have also created the 'Well-being Goals Challenge', which challenges staff to seven days (or more) of modelling a sustainable behaviour, from a choice of following a plant-based diet, reducing waste, green travel, slow fashion, ethical consumption and supporting wildlife.

The organisation has organised some 'Action' events to provide staff with unique opportunities to model a specific 'Be the Change' behaviour/s. Activities so far have covered multi-faith visits, British Sign Language introductory sessions, a clothes swap, and group litter-picking (see case-studies).

The resources are also informed by external sources of advice, for example 'Invest in Nature Cymru' (WCVA), and the 'Art of the Possible', by the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, including its journey-checker for a 'more resilient Wales'.

This area for action on biodiversity contributes to the following objectives in the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales:

- 1** Embed biodiversity in decision-making at all levels
- 2** Safeguard key habitats and species
- 3** Increase ecosystem resilience
- 4** Tackle key pressures
- 5** Improve evidence and understanding
- 6** Governance and support for delivery

Sustainable Procurement

We have reviewed our procurement of paper and will be moving over to paper from sustainable forests. This will include working with procurement to ensure that only sustainably-sourced paper can be procured across the organisation. Also, as part of this work, we are working with directorate business leads to reduce the amount of printing and paper consumption across the organisation.

We are working with our internal 'Procurement Champions' group to request paper from sustainable sources through the organisation's external print contract (for printing publications, for example), and again encouraging colleagues to reduce external print quantities through working with directorate business leads.

The Estates and Health and Safety Team will ensure that future corporate cleaning supplies are biodegradable. The sourcing of further opportunities to procure goods which are



biodegradable and/or made from re-used/recycled materials (including local procurement), as well as reducing need where possible, is also being taken forward through the Procurement Champions group and directorate business leads.

One key focus for the Procurement Champions group is to ensure that Public Health Wales is organising and delivering sustainable meetings and events in external venues across Wales. This includes using the Be the Change e-guide 'Sustainability on the Agenda' to inform this work, which advocates sustainable steps that can be taken by all staff to contribute to Wales' well-being goals. We are also exploring opportunities (and challenges) to sourcing staff uniforms manufactured with sustainable fabrics.

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Developing our Estate

We are continuing to explore opportunities for encouraging biodiversity across the estate. An example of this is the 'Veg on the Ledge' project at No. 2 Capital Quarter, Cardiff (see case-studies).

This project has stimulated interest for a similar 'Veg in the Hedge' initiative at Matrix House, Swansea from spring 2020.

The Estates and Health and Safety Team will also ensure that future developments and maintenance of the estate will use paint that is low in toxicity and emission.



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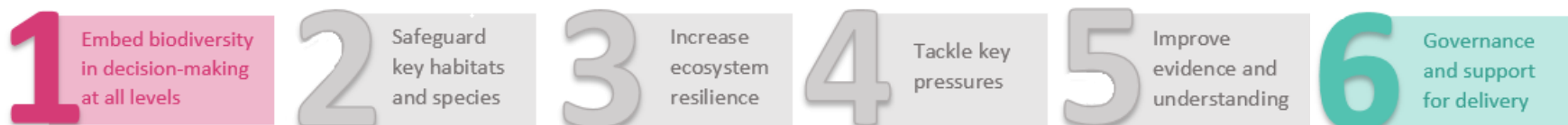
Our Environmental Sustainability Programme



Public Health Wales' vision, through its internal environmental sustainability programme, is to be a sustainable organisation, which protects and enhances our environment. Current work towards achieving our short (2020), medium (2024), and long-term (2030) outcomes for the programme includes:

- Continuing to embed environmental sustainability through the programme's five work-streams: 'Leadership and Engagement', 'Green Travel', 'Monitoring and Evaluation', 'Buildings, Energy and Waste', and 'Plastics Reduction'.
- Reducing our organisational carbon footprint, including the use of our 'Be the Change' individual-level behaviour change movement (see area 1 above).
- Promoting the reduction, re-use and recycling of materials, including food waste.
- Enhancing our understanding of our impact on the environment through base-lining environmental data available to us, and working to identify and rectify any gaps to effectively monitor environmental data for the whole organisation.
- Continuing to embed sustainability principles across our organisation through recruitment, training and procurement, developing waste disposal structures, creating more opportunities for green travel, and addressing organisational culture barriers.
- Achieving international standards accreditation for environmental and energy management.

This area for action on biodiversity contributes to the following objectives in the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales:



Supporting other Public Bodies in Wales

In January 2019, working with Natural Resources Wales, we delivered a seminar (at University Hospital Llandough) around the opportunities for increasing access to green space on or near to NHS Wales land, for NHS Wales Directors of Planning, Directors of Public Health and Directors of Estates, alongside wider stakeholders. Public Health Wales has also produced an e-guide to support NHS Wales' health boards and trusts to comply with the Biodiversity Duty. Both the event report and e-guide can be accessed on Public Health Network Cymru's website: <https://www.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/get-involved/past-event/seminar-on-green-space-in-nhs-wales/>

Public Health Wales has established a Memorandum of Understanding with Natural Resources Wales, with the aim of enabling greater collaboration, adding value to existing ways of working and supporting a joint approach to the delivery of respective well-being objectives. A draft work plan has been developed by a bilateral steering group, which will be finalised and communicated in the coming months.



We have developed a Be the Change toolkit to support other organisations (in Wales and internationally) to promote Be the Change sustainable steps in contribution to both Wales' well-being goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (global goals). We are also producing a 'Well-being Goals Challenge Toolkit' as a resource for public bodies to challenge their staff to seven days (or more) of modelling one or more of the sustainable behaviours (see area one).

A new Be the Change e-guide is currently in production to encourage and provide sustainable

steps for staff in public authorities in Wales to support the delivery of their organisation's biodiversity plan (under the Section 6 Duty). The published guide will be endorsed in collaboration with partners, including the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, and hosted on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership's website as a resource for organisations and town councils across Wales.

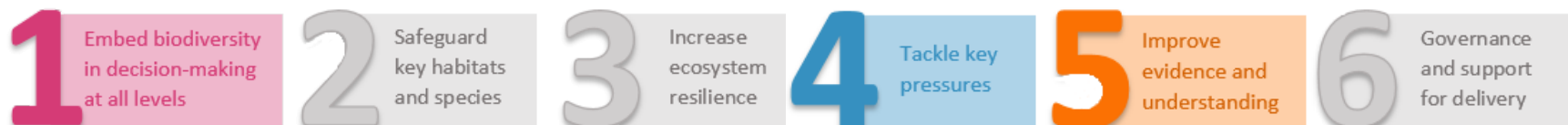
Health Impact Assessment (HIA) - The Public Health Implications of Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling in Welsh Public Bodies

Public Health Wales (Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit and Health and Sustainability Hub) has undertaken this health impact assessment to provide an overview of the Public Health impacts (positive and negative) of the 44

Public Bodies in Wales refocusing their efforts to prioritise waste reduction and reuse, whilst continuing their excellent progress on recycling. A HIA was used to ensure that potential impacts have been viewed through the 'lens' of the wider determinants of health, and to assess the disproportionate effects on specified population groups. The report is scheduled for publication in early 2020.

Public Health Wales has asked the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit to conduct a Health Impact Assessment of Climate Change in Wales. This work will explore the public health implications of Climate Change through the lens of the social determinants of health, the impacts on key population groups and inequalities. The HIA process will engage stakeholders from a range of sectors in Wales. The report is due for publication in Autumn 2020.

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Review of Section 6 Duty

As Public Health Wales' biodiversity plan was published in April 2019, it will not be reviewed in light of this report at this time. The plan will be reviewed, and any changes incorporated into a revised plan, in the process of contributing to the organisation's annual report (including to bring the biodiversity plan in line with reporting on the WFG Act).

Case Studies

'Our Space' Programme

We moved over 500 of our people into premises in Cardiff, and over 100 more into premises in Swansea and Mamhilad. This award-winning approach to circular economy principles was the focus of a case-study undertaken by WRAP Cymru, and published in a European guide for sustainable good practice. A similar approach will be adopted as part of the next phase of the 'Our Space' programme which will look at the estate and how we work in north Wales.

[http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Public%20Health%20Wales%20Sustainable%20Workplace%20\(4\).pdf](http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Public%20Health%20Wales%20Sustainable%20Workplace%20(4).pdf)



'Veg on the Ledge'

Staff in Public Health Wales' office in Number 2 Capital Quarter, Cardiff have set up a gardening project named 'Veg on the Ledge'. The group aims to:

- Create a green haven for staff, visitors and wildlife on the 6th floor balcony
- Improve the mental well-being of staff and visitors by providing a pleasant environment to clear heads and connect with nature



- Plant flowers and plants to attract local insects and wildlife, including bees and other pollinators

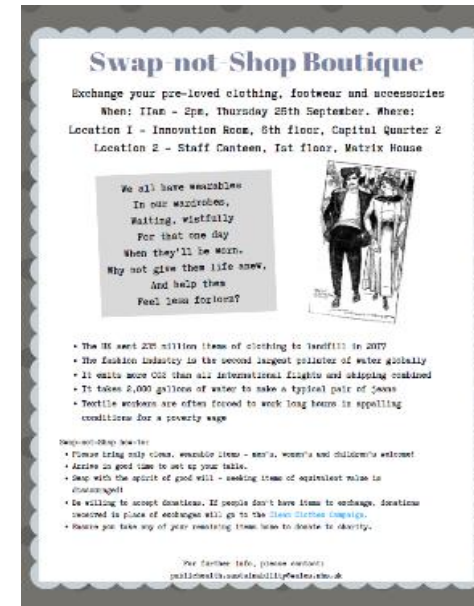
Using a small employee well-being grant, seeds and soil were purchased with the emphasis on plants that are multifunctional and low maintenance: aromatic herbs, edibles and attractive plants which provide food for pollinators.

With a focus on sustainability, the group have used donations of pots and equipment from colleagues across the organisation, as well as making the most of sites like <https://uk.freecycle.org/> and holding internal fundraising sales.

Early successes have seen courgettes, strawberries and tomatoes grown from seed. Staff have enjoyed picking lavender and mint for herbal teas and having a scattering of fresh herbs on their salads. The group are also working in collaboration with 'Food Cardiff' as part of work to make Cardiff Wales' first 'Veg City' <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/veg-pledges/>

'Swap, not Shop' >

'Be the Change' lunchtime sessions were organised for colleagues to exchange unwanted items of clothing and accessories for some new, 'pre-loved' items. This 'Swap-not-Shop', which took place in Matrix House (Swansea) and Capital Quarter (Cardiff), raised awareness about the social and environmental impacts of 'fast fashion' and demonstrated how we can alter our shopping habits to more 'slow fashion' to reduce our carbon footprint.



< 'Group litter-picking'

Linking in with Cardiff Council's 'Love where you live' campaign, Public Health Wales staff have taken part in several group litter-picks along the Dock Feeder Canal to Bute East Dock in Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff.

<https://www.keepcardifftidy.com/love-where-you-live/>