

How do we assist Welsh Ministers in measuring a nation's progress?

Consultation response form

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Responses should be returned by **19 April 2019** to

National Milestones for Wales
Cabinet Office
Welsh Government
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: cabinetoffice@gov.wales

A. Changes to the criteria to select national indicators against which national milestones will be developed

1. Do you propose any changes to the criteria?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. If yes, is the proposed change an additional criterion or an improvement to one of the existing criteria? (Please tick one box)

Additional	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. If an improvement, which existing criterion will be improved?

4. Please provide your new or improved criterion.

5. Please tell us why this new or improved criterion will fit with the other criteria and best support development of a small set of national milestones that will assist Ministers in assessing progress for the whole of Wales towards the seven well-being goals.

6. Do you propose removing any of the existing criterion?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, which criterion do you wish to see removed and why?

B. Changes to the small set of national indicators against which national milestones will be developed

7. Do you propose any changes to the small set of national indicators against which we propose to set national milestones?

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Do you propose to remove or add national indicators from the small set against which we propose to set national milestones? (Please tick one box)

Remove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

9. If you are proposing an additional national indicator against which a milestone should be set, which national indicator do you propose adding?

Percentage of people who volunteer

This indicator already exists, but there is no proposed milestone around it. We encourage Welsh Government to develop one. Volunteering fits the criteria set out for choosing milestones:

Capable of being influenced significantly by our devolved government

Welsh Government has its [Volunteering Policy, Volunteering Wales Grants Scheme, and the Third Sector Scheme](#), which are all instruments that significantly influence the development of volunteering in Wales.

Achieving this milestone will unlock progress in a range of areas

Volunteers in Wales perform many different roles, from litter-picking to helping out older neighbours, staging arts events to running sports clubs. All of the seven wellbeing goals are positively impacted by volunteering in some way. Volunteering also positively impacts many of the 46 indicators, including providing a pathway to employment, access to services, combating loneliness and improving the numbers of healthy lifestyle behaviours.

Achieving this milestone will have a generational effect by preventing poor outcomes that would have a knock-on effect for future generations

Hundreds of sports clubs across Wales are run entirely by volunteers, inspiring a love of fitness and sport across all age groups that people can take into their future lives. Volunteers are on hand to clean up the environment across Wales, thereby protecting the ecosystems and biodiversity of the country. These are just two examples - there are all sorts of voluntary activities that have a positive knock-on effect for the future of Wales.

Will require action by a number of partners

The Third Sector Scheme legislates Welsh Government to work with third sector partners, while third sector organisations consistently work in partnership with each other and with local and national government. Volunteers cover such a varied range of activities that organisations have to work in partnership with each other, otherwise they would not succeed.

Furthermore, we are concerned that without measuring the impact volunteering has on national progress that it may, consciously or unconsciously, lead Welsh Government and other decision-makers to deprioritise the third sector when it comes to investment. Welsh Sports Association (WSA) have also expressed concerns about this. The [Third Sector Data Hub](#) shows that levels of investment in the third sector have already been dropping in the last few years; we would not like to see this worsen because volunteering has not achieved a milestone and so is not perceived as so much of a legitimate source of investment as those indicators that do have a milestone.

WSA have also expressed concern around there being no milestone for indicator 38, 'percentage of people participating in sporting activities three times a week or

more', with similar fears about de-prioritisation of investment.

If you have answered the question above, please now consider which national indicators can be removed from having milestones, to keep a small set or to reduce the set further.

We would not advocate removal of indicators from any currently planned milestones. We realise Welsh Government want to create a small, manageable number of milestones. However, volunteering has such an important, unique role to play in the health, happiness and wellbeing of our communities that it necessitates the inclusion of one further milestone.

10. If you are proposing removing national indicators that we currently propose to set milestones against, which ones do you propose removing?

11. Please provide an explanation for your proposed changes and the contribution they make to a small, balanced set of milestones.

Please see Question 10.

Indicators 10, 18 and 21 are heavily influenced by decisions made by the UK Government and wider economic conditions. The national milestones need to be capable of being influenced significantly by our devolved government and therefore for these indicators it will not be appropriate to base our national milestone on an absolute “point” target. Instead we suggest a more appropriate approach would be to use some of the other methods described on page 13.

12. Do you agree with the rationale for this, or have you any other views on how we should approach areas not entirely within devolved competence?

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C. Changes to the existing 46 national indicators

13. Do you propose any changes to the existing 46 national indicators?

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. What type of change are you proposing to the existing 46 national indicators?

(Please tick one box)

Removal of or change to an existing indicator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. If you are proposing a change to an existing indicator/s or proposing a new indicator, please provide the version you propose.

Change to Indicator 21: Percentage of people in employment

The response around this indicator has been developed with partners including Cynnal Cymru and Oxfam Cymru in their role as members of the Sustainable Development Alliance. It is a recommended refinement to produce more insightful data as to Wales's progress towards multiple well-being goals.

Given the level of in-work poverty in Wales, we believe that an indicator on employment, without reference to pay, is ineffective and open to misinterpretation about the progress that Wales is making towards becoming a more healthy, equal and prosperous nation.

- In 2015 nearly two thirds of children growing up in poverty were in working families.¹
- In 2016, the percentage of people in poverty in a working family was 55%, a record high.²

We would like to see a different indicator that includes reference to the Real Living Wage to help paint a more accurate picture of the country's individual, social and economic well-being.

The Real Living Wage is defined by the Living Wage Foundation as the amount an individual needs to earn to cover basic living costs. It is based on a basket of goods method that includes travel, rent costs, food, clothing and bills needed for a decent standard of living.³

The Real Living Wage is separate to the government's 'national living wage', the legal minimum wage for over 25s, which is based on a target to reach 60% of median earnings by 2020. In 2017, the Living Wage Foundation's living wage was £9.75 for those working within London and £8.45 for those working elsewhere in the UK.

Data released by the Living Wage Foundation in 2017 showed that almost 1 in 4 working people (22%) - 5.6 million people - earned less than a real Living Wage, which has risen by 1.1 million since 2012. Within this, women, young people, part-time workers and BAME workers were disproportionately affected.³

We believe therefore that a milestone to drive and track progress towards employment at a Real Living Wage is critical to achieving a More Equal, as well as a Prosperous Wales.

Evidence shared by Public Health Wales in its *Driving Prosperity for All through Investing for Health and Well-being* report suggests that this is also a key factor in achieving a Healthier Wales as 'studies from the UK and the US show that the implementation of a living wage is associated with improved mental health and lower mortality risk, with possible trans-generational effects.' Introduction of a living wage is included within one of ten key evidence-informed policy opportunities for 'value-for-money priority action to prevent ill-health'. We stress however that this must be the Real Living Wage as opposed to the national minimum wage.

Research undertaken by the Living Wage Foundation, working with Cardiff Business School, also demonstrates the business benefits of implementing the real Living Wage.⁴ A survey of more than 800 accredited Real Living Wage businesses in 2017, ranging from SME's to FTSE 100 companies, found that 93% reported they had gained as a business after becoming a real Living Wage employer. Business benefits included improved staff morale, recruitment and retention, enhanced reputation, increased motivation and commitment and improved relations between staff and managers.

This suggests that a drive towards universal adoption of the Real Living Wage will benefit Wales's overall economy as well as its families and communities.

It is worth noting that Scotland's indicator for their National Outcomes in this area reads: 'Percentage of workers earning less than a Living Wage'. The addition of "- and paid at the Real Living Wage" to Indicator 21 would allow a comparison to be made as it would require data to be gathered about the percentage of people in employment and within this the division of those paid at or below the Real Living Wage. This could allow useful comparisons between interventions at devolved government level as well as driving Welsh policy towards an outcome that would help achieve progress in multiple areas of well-being.

For these reasons, we recommend that Indicator 21 is refined to:

'Percentage of people in employment and paid at the Real Living Wage.'

And that a milestone is set to drive and track progress towards this.

References:

1. Institute for Fiscal Studies, Nearly Two Thirds of Children in Poverty Live in Working Families, July 2015
 2. KPMG, Living Wage Research, November 2016
 3. Low Pay in the Charity Sector, Living Wage Foundation, 2017
- Living Wage Foundation website, 2019

Change to indicator 23: 'Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area'

We note Welsh Government's comments that setting a milestone against this measure is difficult due to a lack of data and the problem in understanding the impact interventions could have on the rate of progress. We hope this does not end up preventing a milestone being set against this indicator as we would certainly encourage one to be developed.

The [National Indicators Technical Document](#) includes 'voting patterns' as a sole example of contextual data to aid analysis - it would be useful to include 'levels of co-produced services' here. Our [Empowering Communities](#) report notes that one key facet of empowered communities is ensuring services are co-produced by public bodies and service users. The higher the level of genuinely co-produced

services in a local area is then the more likely it is that people will feel they are able to influence decisions.

The [National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales](#), endorsed by Welsh Government, offer a set of principles to service providers to ensure that people and communities are able to engage with decisions that affect them. Following these should lead to an increase in people feeling able to influence decisions.

Change to indicator 24: 'Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need'

Fair Treatment for Women in Wales have highlighted that the technical measurement for this indicator should be adjusted to read 'Percentage of adults aged 16+ who feel satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need, *particularly access to tertiary/specialist care*'. This is to help ensure that barriers do not get in the way of people's access to the care they need, even if that care is only accessible via a health board in a different area to that which the patient lives in. It will also ensure that people do not think the indicator refers only to social services, transport services, leisure centres and so on.

16. If you have proposed a new indicator, please now consider which national indicators can be removed, to keep a small set or reduce the set further.

17. If you are proposing removal of an existing national indicator, please identify that indicator.

18. Please tell us why your proposed change to the existing 46 national indicators will support us in measuring progress towards achieving the well-being goals.

This proposed tweak to Indicator 23 will simply provide further data and context during the analytical process and be helpful for all partners. We do not regard this as an extra burden but do feel it will provide better data.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here