



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government Integrated Impact Assessment Summary

Title of proposal:

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales

Department:

Healthy and Social Services

Cabinet Secretary/Minister responsible:

Minister for Health and Social Services

Start Date:

17 January 2019

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What action is the Welsh Government considering and why?

Obesity is a major public health challenge for Wales. The Child Measurement Programme (2016/17) shows that 27.1% of four to five year olds in Wales were overweight or obese and the National Survey for Wales indicates that in 2017-18 60% of adults in Wales were overweight or obese.

The burden of childhood obesity is being felt the hardest in more deprived areas. Referring to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, there is a 6.2 percentage point difference between the prevalence of obesity in children living in the least deprived areas compared to children living in the most deprived areas (14.9% and 8.7%) and an 11 percentage point difference for overweight and obesity amongst adults (66% and 55%).

Obesity leads to a higher risk of suffering from type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, certain cancers and is linked to mental health issues. Illness associated with obesity is estimated to cost the Welsh NHS more than £465 million per year by 2050, with a cost to society and the economy of £2.4 billion.

The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 placed a duty on the Welsh Ministers to publish a national strategy on preventing obesity, and reducing obesity levels in Wales. The Welsh Government is consulting on the themes and proposals that this strategy will need to address.

The consultation will inform the development of a 'Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales' plan.

The plan will be for a 10 year period.

The proposals contribute to 'A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care', which sets out a vision for the future of health and social care service in Wales. Central to that vision is a shift in focus and resources to prevention, with a greater emphasis on keeping people healthier and well.

We will test a range of possible approaches during the consultation process. These will include the structures we need to put in place to deliver a whole system approach to tackling obesity, legislating to improve our food and drink environment, improving the food offer and opportunities for activity in a range of settings and putting in place effective services to support people to reach and maintain a healthy weight.

Conclusion

1. How have people most likely to be affected by the proposal been involved in developing it?

The development of the consultation proposals has been supported by a national ‘Obesity Strategy Board’ which included members from the Welsh Obesity Alliance, Welsh Local Government Association, Local Health Boards, Public Health Wales, Allied Health Professionals, Offices of Future Generations and Children’s Commissioners and Welsh Government departments. This has included testing a range of evidence and proposals to develop a consultation draft.

Staff and patients from Weight Management Clinics in Cardiff and Vale University, Aneurin Bevan Local and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Boards have been consulted.

There have been a number of stakeholder events during the process of developing the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales consultation. This has included two policy development workshops with over 80 people and organisations represented, a prioritising actions debate between the Future Generations commissioner and Director of Public Health and Deputy Chief Executive with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, regular board meetings with stakeholders, meetings with Deputy Directors and policy leads within Welsh Government, visiting flying start community weight management groups to see work on the ground and the testing of proposals with the Welsh Medical Committee.

Children and their representatives

A youth friendly version of the consultation has been developed for use in schools and the community. In addition a schools pack will be available to enable schools to discuss the proposals with their pupils.

Specific engagement within schools, colleges and universities is planned for the consultation process, as is stakeholder engagement with groups that can represent the views of children and young people.

People with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

Early engagement has taken place with the Ethnic Youth Support Team and Disability Wales to develop specific engagement during the consultation. We will be seeking views from protected characteristics groups through developing focus groups. There will also be a question in the consultation paper asking that possible differential impacts be identified.

Welsh speakers and Welsh language specialist groups

The consultation paper and supporting resources will be produced bilingually. There will also be a question in the consultation paper asking that possible differential impacts be identified. We will also be looking at service provision for the Welsh language during the review of the obesity pathway.

Other people who may be affected by the proposal

In the development of the consultation we have discussed possible approaches with staff and patients at weight management clinics whose expertise has been invaluable in understanding the underlying causes of obesity and what actions might assist with helping people to maintain a healthy weight. We will be seeking their views on the consultation proposals as well as engaging with community based weight management services including those from the private sector.

2. What are the most significant impacts, positive and negative?

The impacts of this consultation exercise will be minimal as at this stage we are seeking feedback on possible approaches.

Depending on the outcomes of the consultation the most possible significant impacts could be as follows.

People – The impact should be significant and positive, with more people be able to maintain a healthy weight, with resulting improvements in physical and mental health

Culture – no significant impact

Welsh Language – no significant impact

Economy – The consultation recognises the significant role the food industry plays in the population's ability to maintain a healthy weight. There could be an impact on those businesses if measures such as calorie labelling, energy drink bans and price promotions are taken forward. These potential impacts will be considered during the consultation period.

We will be engaging with the Welsh food industry during the consultation process to explore how they can help the people of Wales to maintain a healthy weight. That dialogue will seek their views on proposals to improve access to information about food content and to improve the food offer in Wales to increase the availability of healthier options.

Environment - There could be a positive impact on Climate Change if the proposals result in increased active travel and reduced car usage.

Other impacts - During the development of the consultation document, feedback from stakeholders and an examination of the evidence base has identified four key themes that will be tested:

- Leadership and Enabling;
- Healthy Environment;
- Healthy Settings
- Healthy People

We have also identified that there are certain groups at greater risk of becoming overweight or obese:

- Pregnant women;
- Pre school children;
- Adolescents and young adults;
- Older adults

The consultation will help develop the first whole system plan to tackle obesity in Wales – to date activity has centred on delivery of the Obesity Pathway which has been inconsistent.

Well being of Future Generations Act

The draft proposals we will be consulting on support the goal of a Healthier Wales within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It will also contribute to the goals of a Prosperous Wales, a More Equal Wales and A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

The five ways of working have been built into the proposals for Leadership and Enabling Change.

3. In light of the impacts identified, how will the proposal:

- maximise contribution to our well-being objectives and the seven well-being goals;

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides a unique opportunity to coordinate effective multi-sector action on obesity. The Act places statutory responsibilities on public sector bodies to act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the wellbeing needs of future generations. The case for change on obesity is compelling and has both positive impacts on our wellbeing, as well as the wider Welsh economy. There is a real opportunity to use the powers and levers set out in the Act to create a step change. This also places an approach on preventative health as a core feature and the development and delivery of the plan will drive integration, collaboration and involvement across both partners and communities themselves.

- avoid, reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

We will be engaging with the Welsh food industry during the consultation process to explore how they can help the people of Wales to maintain a healthy weight. That dialogue will seek their views on proposals to improve access to information about food content and to improve the food offer in Wales to increase the availability of healthier options.

4. How will the impact of the proposal be monitored and evaluated as it progresses and when it concludes?

The consultation will be issued for 12 weeks with a formal response form provided. There will be an evaluation of impact for each regional engagement week, which will inform the planning of future events.

Following the conclusion of the consultation responses will be analysed and a report will be produced and published.

The final 'Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales' plan will be published by October 2019. The plan will include proposals for evaluation and outcome monitoring.

The plan will be subject to statutory review every 3 years and in place for a 10 year period.