

SECTION 8. CONCLUSION

(Please note that this section will be published)

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

The strategy has been co-produced with older people and their representatives. This means older people have been involved in creating this document from the onset – they have informed its design and development and ultimately will be involved in its delivery. Initial work was led by the Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing (MAFA) whose membership is 50% older people. The forum convened five working groups to focus on the key areas that members felt we must get right in planning for an ageing population; transport; participation; housing; making rights real and planning for the future. Members of the working groups included older people, leading academics, and representatives from the public, voluntary and private sectors. The Older People's Commissioner was also represented on all groups.

To build on the work initiated by MAFA, we engaged over 1000 older people in a conversation about ageing. We visited national groups and local forums and older people also took part in community engagement events led by Age Cymru. We also commissioned Age Cymru to hold focus groups with older people from minority groups. During the pandemic we continued to engage with older people via MAFA, the Older People's Commissioner and surveys into the experiences of older people during lockdown led by Age Cymru and five national older people's organisations – Cymru Older People's Alliance (COPA), National Pensioners Convention, National Pensioners Forum, Active Wales and the Welsh Senate of Older People. We will also held regular meetings with local authority staff leading on policy for older people.

8.2 What are the most significant impacts, positive and negative?

As outlined above, the strategy was developed in coproduction with older people, leading academics and representatives of the third and public sectors. Through this robust development process, we have been able to ensure that the strategy will have no negative impact on older people.

The most positive impact will be to create a society where people can look forward to ageing whilst feeling confident that help will be easily accessible if needed. We aim to achieve this by cross governmental and sectoral action. We have worked with a broad range of partners to identify the factors that affect how well we age and developed metrics by which success can be measured.

One of the most positive impacts of the strategy will be to challenge the narrative associated with older people so they can be recognised for the contributions they make and not merely viewed as a drain on society. Encouraging local authorities to gain membership of the WHO's Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities will also bring positive impacts as the criteria for membership is to demonstrate older people are involved in policy design and delivery.

8.3 In light of the impacts identified, how will the proposal:

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

The 7 wellbeing goals are:

- a prosperous Wales
- a resilient Wales
- a healthier Wales
- a more equal Wales
- a Wales of cohesive communities
- a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- a globally responsible Wales

The strategy spans a broad range of policy areas from health and social care for older people living with complex needs to support for working age carers and the foundational economy. Our national vision for an age friendly Wales encompasses the places where people work, their rights and entitlements, their relationships within their families and local communities and with governments. It also encompasses the relationships we have across the generations and aims to challenge and change the way we think about ageing.

The four aims of the strategy closely align with the well-being goals:

- *Aim 1: Enhancing well-being* includes actions to build a healthier Wales by improving access to health and social care and mental health services and by improving support to unpaid carers.
- *Aim 2: Improving local environments and services* - housing, transport systems and the natural and built environment fundamentally affect how well we live and age. Getting these crucial elements of our society right can be the defining factor in how successful we are in achieving our vision of an age friendly Wales and building a healthier, more prosperous and resilient Wales.
- *Aim 3: Building and retaining people's own capability* – it is vital that both national and local governments lead difficult conversations about the changing responsibilities between statutory bodies and citizens in order to build a healthier, fairer and more resilient Wales. The pandemic has encouraged individuals to re-imagine their role in their communities and required all sectors to adapt and develop new ways of working. The strategy sets out plans to increase volunteering and invest in local support that matters to older people. These actions will help to create more cohesive communities.
- *Aim 4: Tackling age related poverty* – this aim identifies steps to reduce the numbers of older people living in poverty by increasing take up of pension credit and investing in the foundational economy and therefore contributes to creating a more prosperous Wales.

The strategy also promotes a globally responsible Wales by encouraging and supporting local authorities to join the WHO Network where they can access global support and expertise. Civic engagement is an essential component of the WHO's age friendly communities programme. In order to join the WHO's Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities, leaders must demonstrate that they are engaging effectively with older people. This approach also supports the Well-being of Future Generation's Act's Five Ways of Working which focus on involvement, collaboration and prevention. By listening to the experiences of older people today, rural and urban communities can plan for future generations.

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

In 2019, the internationally recognised Centre for Innovative Ageing (CIA) at Swansea University was commissioned by Welsh Government to use Global AgeWatch Index to benchmark the situation of older people in Wales against the other 3 UK nations – Northern Ireland, Scotland and England. This measure was updated in 2021.

CIA used a range of measures to create a UK Age Index (UKAI). The results for the overall UKAI show that Wales was ranked 1st, with the highest overall score, followed by Scotland (2nd), England (3rd) and finally Northern Ireland (4th). This shows that there is much that we are doing well and we should feel proud that our commitment to support older people is clearly evidenced.

To accompany this strategy, we have published the full results of the [UK Ageing Index](#) and a report benchmarking the situation of older people in Wales.

Following the publication of the strategy in September 2021, we have worked with members of the Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing to coproduce a supporting delivery plan. This plan sets out how we intend to deliver the actions and monitor progress - updates will be published annually. We will also share quarterly updates with MAFA for discussion and scrutiny.

We will continue to work closely with the Older People's Commissioner and local authorities to monitor progress towards membership of the WHO's Age Friendly Network of Communities and Cities.

Going forward, the [UK Ageing Index](#) will be updated annually to track how well Wales supports and empowers older people compared to the other three nations.