

## Well-being of Future Generations Stakeholder Forum 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – notes on the UK open government network

The full Jamboard notes have been included below and the [original Jamboards can be found here](#).

### **Some key themes that emerged from the Jamboards include:**

- Better provision of information/ better communication of what information and resources are available to people
- Linking up the open government agenda to WFG but being pragmatic and recognising that open government covers some areas outside of the WFG agenda
- More explicitly linking open government to activity from Welsh Government- including legislation around improving elections being led by the Counsel General
- Being aware of limited resources both within government and civil society in Wales

Following the discussion a suggested next step of forming a subgroup on open government or bringing open government into an existing subgroup was considered.

### ***Jamboard notes***

#### **Where should open government in Wales go from here?**

- Disconnect between strategic understanding of open government/involvement and local level/public officials
- Transparency as an antidote to disinformation
- Building trust
- Engagement with Government can be topic specific - hard to know who to engage, feed information in
- Not obvious on how to feed in ideas and issues into Government. Understanding government is still a challenge
- How to deliver on open government ambitions within existing/limited resources
- Participation and involvement principle has been very difficult. Little guidance on how it is done and meaningful
- Mapping the wider landscape of activities that are advancing the open government agenda (e.g. Counsel General work)
- Developing a clear picture of what can be achieved and having guidance in place
- People have lost the ability and confidence to experiment
- Revert to tried and tested (survey/consultations)
- Balancing managing expectations with ambition
- Consultation needs to be supplemented with targeted engagement
- Root causes of problems are harder to deal with than the symptoms
- Open up knowledge of policy processes, some Governance structures to open up knowledge and participation to people
- Be clear with citizens about trying new things. Involve them in the innovative nature of the process

- Electoral representation (likely to be worsened by changes to law in UK) needs to be maintained and enhanced in Wales!
- Authority to experiment and try new things. Culture change. Engrained in the ways things happen
- Differing levels of trust in communities
- Communicating the complexity of issues without losing the audience

### **How do we increase civil society engagement in open government in Wales?**

- Could the connection with citizen's assemblies be widened or linked to, in some way, to incorporate open government?
- Considering civil society broadly- SMEs for example
- Creation of materials to support organisations to engage with their membership
- Make it easier for people to talk to staff in local government - too much is guided to online forms and generic emails
- Does Senedd provide materials to help people understand how democracy and government work in Wales?
- Provision of information (on politics in Wales) – linking up what is already out there and making it really easy to access

### **How can this forum be involved?**

- Subgroup/ bringing into subgroup on participation?
- Open Government agenda is wider than this forum - risk that this expands the group too far beyond WFG Act. Perhaps a pilot
- Mapping exercise and links to 'involvement' way of working
- Acknowledgement that language of open government in Wales has different currency given history of civil society engagement in Wales, and WFG narrative of involvement
- Understanding the synergies between OG and WFG and opportunities but not whole agenda