

# exchange

FOR BEVAN FOUNDATION MEMBERS

**bevan**  
FOUNDATION

SPRING 2016



What will  
Wales be  
like in 2020?  
Setting the  
direction for  
the Fifth  
Assembly

# Your ideal holiday?

- ✓ Purpose built hotel for older people and those with disabilities
- ✓ Staff focused on people not profit
- ✓ Located in sunny Porthcawl

Learn more about the unique Glamorgan Holiday Hotel:

 [www.glamorganholidayhotel.com](http://www.glamorganholidayhotel.com)  
 **01656 785 375**

(Part of Cartrefi Cymru, one of Wales' largest social enterprises.)



## Job Fit

### REMOVING BARRIERS, DEVELOPING ABILITY, DELIVERING SUSTAINABILITY

#### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Rehab JobFit is a third sector led partnership between the Rehab Group and Interserve, which delivers a range of employability services to enable people to progress from long term economic inactivity into sustainable employment.

We deliver our services working with local partners and we are now seeking organisations in Wales and South West England to work with us in the future. We are particularly interested in getting to know local and community-based organisations with expertise in supporting people with low confidence, low skills or lack of recent work experience towards employment.

If you are not already part of our Supply Chain Network and wish to be considered for future business opportunities then please visit <http://rehabjobfit.com> for more information.



## indycube

cydweithio

FREE FIRST DAY

### COWORKING AND SHARED OFFICE SPACE

[indycube.cymru](http://indycube.cymru)

DESK SPACE | FREE WIFI | TEA & COFFEE | MEETING ROOMS | EVENT SPACE



email: [mari@indycube.cymru](mailto:mari@indycube.cymru)

Book a desk from just £12 per day.  
We have locations and spaces across Wales



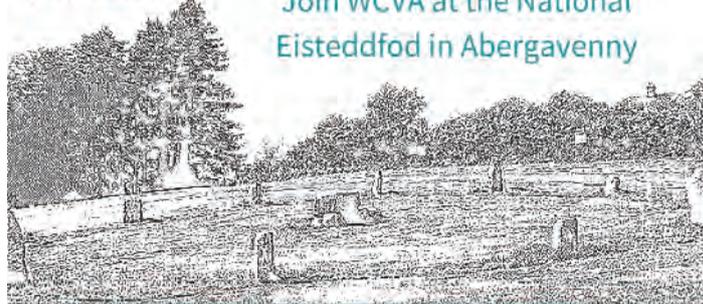
29 July - 6 August      29 Gorffennaf - 6 Awst

## Eisiau cyfle i hyrwyddo'ch elusen yn y Brifwyl?

### Want to profile your charity at Wales' leading cultural festival?

Ymunwch â WCVA yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn y Fenni

Join WCVA at the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny



Please contact: Kate Gobir 029 2043 1724  
Cysylltwch â: [kgobir@wcva.org.uk](mailto:kgobir@wcva.org.uk)

Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Ballic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF10 5FH. registered charity number 218093.  
Cyngor Gweithredol Gwladol Cymru, Tŷ Bally, Sgwar Mount Stuart, Caerdydd, CF10 5FH. rhif elusen gofrestrdedig 218093.



# Contents



4. FEATURE



8. HOUSING



16. OLDER PEOPLE



20. SHOWCASE

24. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



2 *Victoria Winckler*  
**2020 Wales: the challenges ahead**

6 *Rachel Bowen*  
**To grow the economy, think small and medium**

8 *Tamsin Stirling*  
**My dream of quality, affordable homes**

10 *John Furlong*  
**Teachers as leaders of learning**

12 *Liz Silversmith*  
**How many AMs does it take to change a light Bill?**

14 *Jonathan Richards*  
**Beyond an NHS of soundbites and slogans**

16 *Judith Phillips*  
**Ageing well? Improving later life by 2020**

18 *Nisreen Mansour*  
**A positive take on Wales' new tax powers**

20 *SHOWCASE Friends of the Earth*  
**A bottle deposits scheme for Wales**

22 **Bevan Foundation News**  
**Members' News**

24 *Member Spotlight*  
**Ruth Coombs, Head of British Heart Foundation Cymru**

The views in articles, advertisements and news items in Exchange are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared or endorsed by Bevan Foundation Trustees, staff or other members. All articles are copyright Bevan Foundation.



---

## Feature *Victoria Winckler*

Victoria Winckler is Director of the Bevan Foundation



# 2020 Wales: the challenges ahead

**T**he 2016 Assembly election will be radically different to all previous elections. It will be the first time the electorate chooses an Assembly with primary legislative powers and powers of taxation, albeit limited, with the prospect of even greater areas of responsibility to come. It is also the first election to take place in the context of the unprecedented financial challenge of cutting the Assembly's budget, so that, at least in theory, the typical election promises of 'more this and that' are simply not credible. And of course it is the first Assembly election where there has been a majority Conservative government at Westminster. For these reasons alone, we might expect the parties' positioning and manifesto promises to be very different to previous years.

But it's not only the electoral context which is new - the issues that a future Assembly will have to deal with over the next five years are set to change too. The economy, employment, population and housing market, to name just a few, are evolving rapidly. Who had heard of the 'gig economy' in 2011? Or 'bedroom tax'? Or 'generation rent'? These new terms describe very real developments in our



**[The Welsh Government] must ensure that there is a ‘safety net’ in hard times, so that nobody in 2020 Wales is without the basics of food, shelter, warmth and companionship.**

economy and society over recent years. Whoever forms the next Welsh Government will need to address the issues that face Wales now, and be ready for whatever lies ahead.

What lies ahead is not, however, a complete mystery. There are many independent, expert forecasts and projections on everything from the birth rate to the rate of inflation to rainfall. It has been said that there are two types of forecast – lucky and wrong. But it has also been said that *“it is far better to foresee even without certainty than not to foresee at all.”* So with these warnings in mind, the rest of this article sets out the key findings of our recent analysis of forecasts for Wales over the next Assembly term. These point to the five big challenges for any incoming Welsh Government of whatever political colour.

## 1. Increase and spread prosperity

The forecasts for the economy and employment in Wales make depressing reading. There is every likelihood that Wales’ Gross Value Added (GVA) will continue to lag behind that of most other regions, with the economy’s weak performance being matched by slow growth in employment. This sluggish performance, coupled with the forecast decline in semi- and unskilled occupations and the ongoing erosion of the terms and conditions of these jobs, will do little to reduce unemployment and low income, especially in disadvantaged communities. With welfare reform reducing the incomes of the poorest families by up to £50 a week, it is inevitable that poverty levels, and in particular deep and persistent poverty, will rise towards the end of the decade.

The challenge facing the next Welsh Government is not just to increase GVA, which is no more than a simplistic measure of output. It must also strengthen the economy and employment in ways which matter to ordinary people, such as decent work conditions and an income that enables people to enjoy life not just survive.

Only a broad-based approach to increasing and spreading prosperity will ensure that the economy and labour market are resilient to the inevitable future shocks. If you doubt the need for a new approach, the headlines warning that another global financial crisis is around the corner, that yet more ‘disruptive technology’ is on the horizon and that further welfare reform is highly likely should be reminder enough. It remains to be seen if the parties address this urgent need to change how Wales does its economic development in their manifestos.

## 2. Improve life chances and resilience

The outlook for people’s life chances is equally challenging. Demographic change means there are likely to be 115,000 more older people and 25,000 more children in 2022 than there were in 2012. This shift alone will change the level and pattern of demand for public services. In terms of education, gaps in attainment by school leavers and adults will persist. Housing will continue to be in short supply, so that by 2020 around 20 per cent of households (predominantly young people and families) are expected to live in the private rented sector. And there is no sign that discrimination and inequality will reduce without significant interventions.

The challenge for the incoming Welsh Government is to maximise people’s opportunities to cope with change and to ‘get on’, irrespective of their background. This ought to involve eradicating the disadvantages caused by low income or characteristics such as ethnicity, disability, age and gender. The education and training system – including schools but also pre-school learning, further and higher education, work-based learning and adult learning – is absolutely critical to this task.

Improving life chances means building personal, community and institutional resilience to cope with whatever the next five years brings. The future Welsh Government must encourage resilience by providing a ‘step up’ at critical points in people’s lives, such as on leaving school, college or university, at the birth of a child, if faced with redundancy or when hit by long-term illness. And it must ensure that there is a ‘safety net’ in hard times, so that nobody in 2020 Wales is without the basics of food, shelter, warmth and companionship.

Will the parties feature resilience and life chances in their manifestos? Let’s see.



### 3. Better health

With Wales' higher levels of general ill-health and disability and greater prevalence of a range of conditions such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes it is not surprising that the NHS in Wales is already a political battleground. And the outlook is that demand for NHS services will increase. The incidence of almost all diseases, from cancer to Parkinson's disease to dementia, is expected to increase by 2020, sometimes substantially. And demand for social care for older people is expected to rise by 71 per cent for residential care and 61 per cent for community services by 2031, with demand for children's and adults' services also expected to grow.

The financial consequences of rising demand for the Welsh NHS alone are staggering. The Nuffield Trust estimated that the Welsh NHS could need £3.6 billion extra in 2025/26 compared with 2016/17 – an increase that would leave little left for all other public services in Wales unless there is a dramatic increase in public

spending. Add to this the prospect of inevitably expensive new treatments, the risk of antibiotic resistance and new diseases such as Zika, and rising patient and client expectations about quality of health and social care.

Will the parties be brave enough to talk about the transformation needed in health and health care, rather than promise more goodies? I doubt it, given the pledges made to date by three parties.

### 4. Strengthening infrastructure

Environmental issues are rarely election winners, but ought nevertheless to be on the political agenda. Climate change poses big risks – Wales' climate is already warmer and wetter than ten years ago, and by the mid 2020s there is a 50:50 chance that, assuming carbon emissions are in the middle of the forecast range, that:

- the maximum temperature on a summer's day will be 1.9 degrees C higher than now;



**...recent news has merely confirmed that Wales faces an extraordinary squeeze in the next five years.**

- the average winter's day will be 1.3 degrees C warmer than now;
- precipitation will be up 7 per cent in winter and down by 7 per cent in summer.

Wales' disadvantaged communities will have greatest difficulty coping with the increased risk of flooding, extreme heat and cold, and Wales' wildlife and landscapes will also be affected.

Transport infrastructure is under strain too. The upward trend in car use is set to continue, with 2.1 billion additional miles being travelled by 2020 compared with 2010. On public transport, an extra 7.5 million additional passenger rail journeys are forecast by 2026 against 2006 figures but the downward trend in bus use looks likely to continue. The M4 relief road and proposed metro should be well underway during the next Assembly's term, but will they be enough to improve accessibility for those who do not use a car or live outside south-east Wales?

And for all the investment in broadband infrastructure, 21 per cent of premises still do not have access to superfast broadband. On mobile, 56 percent of premises do not have access to 4G coverage even outside the building. With everything from booking taxis to controlling central heating being mobile, what will the parties offer on digital infrastructure?

## 5. Political change

There are uncharted political waters ahead, with a decision on whether the UK should leave the EU on 23rd June, further devolution to Scotland and to English cities – including devolution of previously sacrosanct matters such as some social security benefits, a new Wales Act 2016, a Welsh income tax, not to mention the distinct possibility that Boris Johnson or George Osborne could be Prime Minister as early as 2017.

These decisions are outside the control of the new Assembly yet could up-end the Welsh political consensus. In addition, the Assembly itself is undergoing change, with at least 12 new faces as incumbent AMs (including two Ministers and the Presiding Officer) stand down and the prospect of several more new faces – including representation of UKIP for the first time – if polls of voting intentions are correct.

How well a large body of inexperienced Assembly Members and new Ministers will cope with these challenges remains to be seen. Do they have plans for action in case of a Brexit? Do they have robust

proposals for sustainable funding to replace the unfit-for-purpose Barnett formula? How will they engage with and energise a disenfranchised electorate?

In looking ahead to 2020, I have been deeply struck by the multiple, bleak forecasts for Wales, and especially the outlook for people who are the least well off and have fewest advantages. If we think things are tough for young people, disabled people and people out of work now, we ain't seen nothing yet. Of course the forecasts could be wrong – indeed I hope that most of them are. But I have seen nothing in recent months to suggest that these forecasts are mistaken. If anything, recent news has merely confirmed that Wales faces an extraordinary squeeze in the next five years.

The next Assembly and next Welsh Government face their toughest tests yet. Will they be able to turn around the fortunes of the Welsh economy and build a resilient, thriving, prosperous foundation for the future? Will they be able to improve people's life chances so that everyone achieves their potential? Have they the vision and ideas to transform the NHS so that demand actually goes down and waiting lists are no more? Can Wales be green and pleasant with good public transport and brilliant 4G connectivity? And if these questions are not hard enough, they will need to do all this at a time of considerable political uncertainty and severe constraints on public funding.

In 2020 Wales could be very different to today, and not necessarily in a good way. If we don't like what the experts predict, we need to do something about it. This is a call to the political parties, incoming Assembly and future Welsh Government, and it's also a call to business, third and public sector leaders – a prosperous and resilient Wales is within our grasp.

*The Shape of Wales to Come: Wales' economy, environment & society in 2020 is available to download now from [www.bevanfoundation.org/publications/shape-wales-2020/](http://www.bevanfoundation.org/publications/shape-wales-2020/).*

## Economy *Rachel Bowen*

Rachel Bowen is Policy Manager at FSB Wales.



# To grow the economy, think small and medium



**We want to see councils not only given the power to put in place economic development policies tailored to local needs, but also to be given the staff and funds devolved from Cardiff Bay to put those policies into practice.**

**T**here is one issue that will be fundamental to all our aspirations for Wales in 2020 – to borrow a phrase from US politics “it’s the economy, stupid.” To put it simply, if we want to tackle poverty, improve health and generally have the money available for our nation to pay for all those services we so value, we need to have a healthy economy.

While I do not think anyone could conceivably argue that we do not want a healthy economy in the years to come, there is a significant debate currently taking place about what Wales’ future economy should look like. Within that debate there is also much discussion of the measures that need to be put in place to give our economy the very best chance.

It is an issue that we at the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Wales have been grappling with for some years. For some time we have been concerned by the lack of a proper balance in the Welsh economic policy. If you look at the make-up of the business population in Wales you will find that we have a great

many micro and small businesses (many of which we represent). We also have a number of big multi-national businesses, often in the form of branch plants, each employing several hundred people or more.

But when it comes to the middle, Wales has all too few medium-sized businesses, in contrast to the ‘Mittelstand’ of established medium-sized firms that characterises the German economy. This issue was highlighted by Professor Karel Williams and his team at the Centre for Research on



Socio-Cultural Change in the independent report that we commissioned, *What Wales Could Be*.

The situation is compounded by the way that successive governments in Wales have approached the economy. There appears to have been a lack of balance, with much effort made to attract and retain investment from mobile, global businesses without the same focus on allowing smaller, home-grown businesses to succeed. Some of those smaller businesses will have the capacity to grow, whilst others may have little growth potential but can nonetheless perform a vital function by providing valuable services and stable employment in their own community.

We have proposed a raft of policies that we would like to see the next Welsh Government put in place to let our small businesses reach their potential. In encouraging that potential we can both unlock economic growth and reduce our current over-reliance on inward investment for employment.

The first thing we want to see is a statutory duty for economic development passed to local authorities. For too long in Wales we have taken a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development. But the needs of Cardiff are very different from the needs of Conwy or Ceredigion and we need flexibility of decision-making and appropriate interventions to support those needs. We want to see councils not only given the power to put in place economic development policies tailored to local needs, but also to be given the staff and funds devolved from Cardiff Bay to put those policies into practice.

The second key measure we want to see is the creation of a Small Business Administration. In the US the Small Business Administration (SBA) has functioned effectively for many years, bringing together business support and access to finance. Within Wales we want the SBA also to cover procurement, and for its director to have a specific role as an advocate for small businesses within government. Crucially, the work of the SBA would be informed by an SME research centre, to ensure that it is providing the assistance that businesses really need.

Taken together the statutory duty and the Wales SBA should give smaller businesses in Wales a better opportunity to survive and thrive, but there are other factors that need to be tackled if we are to unleash their full potential.

Better regulation is vital. Given that the Senedd now has legislative powers we can hardly expect to see no new regulations being made. However, legislation that has been created in Cardiff Bay has not always been as clear as possible. With that in mind we want the next Welsh Government to create a 'better regulation'

agenda, to ensure that new regulation is drafted so that it is clear how businesses need to comply. This would lessen the time and cost for small businesses dealing with regulation, and should also reduce pressures on the regulators themselves.

Alongside regulation comes the issue of taxation. In my experience the small businesses among our membership fully expect to pay their fair share of tax. But when it comes to business rates it is clear that a disproportionate burden falls on small businesses. Some of our smallest members can see as much as 7 per cent of their turnover accounted for by business rates, but that figure falls to below 0.5 per cent for larger businesses.

Business rates are a huge burden upon many smaller businesses, and we want to see small business rate relief extended. We also want to see the business rates multiplier split in Wales to end the perverse situation where small businesses pay the tax at a higher rate than if they were in England, while big businesses pay at a lower rate than over the border.

If our small businesses are to succeed we also need to be wary of placing additional tax burdens upon them. To do so without having a thorough understanding of the impact that those taxes would have on them and their employees is potentially very damaging. Taxation certainly has a role to play in creating the financial wherewithal to support and develop our communities but this agenda must not overlook the blunt fact that business vitality and viability constitute the very essence of healthy communities.

We want a Wales where small businesses can prosper, where more workers can enjoy stable employment in their own communities. We want a Wales where we have more medium-sized businesses grounded in our communities, delivering prosperity for Wales. Small- and medium-sized businesses are not subject to the dictates of head offices thousands of miles away and do not create seismic shocks to people and economies by the withdrawal of operations. We are confident that the measures we propose would help to make Wales more prosperous, with all parts of Wales, from our cities to the Valleys and our rural communities, sharing in the benefits of economic development.

But to get there requires change and it requires a more consensual, honest, longer-term and challenging conversation about the roadmap. I fear that if we do not accept the need to critically evaluate our approach to the economy as the world changes then we are destined to repeat the mistakes of the past. I very much hope that we are not looking back in 2020 asking why we did not embrace the change in economic policy that Wales so badly needs today.

# Housing *Tamsin Stirling*

Tamsin Stirling is an independent housing consultant.



## My dream of quality, affordable homes



**M**y dream for Wales in 2020 is one with less inequality and division than today, where the need for a good quality, affordable home is recognised as such a fundamental issue that resources and effort are focused relentlessly to make this a reality for all the citizens of Wales; where citizens can bring their talents and resources to work with specialists and relevant organisations to craft housing solutions that are flexible, energy efficient and really well-designed – homes that any of us would be happy to see being built where we live – making collaboration and co-production a reality; where those of us that need support, short- or long-term, to maintain and sustain a home receive it, through both funded services and voluntary action; where solidarity has been built around the need for a home so that there is pride when a community-led or co-operative housing scheme for people on a mix of incomes is built, rather than a mono-tenure scheme for owner-occupation; and where government investment predominantly goes into an increasing asset base rather than revenue to help people pay for ever-increasing rents.

Yes, I'm dreaming – this is aspirational and a very long way from our current reality. But I believe that, by 2020, we could move a few steps in the right direction by



**Investment needs to be at least doubled in order to meet need.**

facing the challenges head on, and by thinking longer term.

Almost wherever you tread on housing issues, vested interests are at play. I am an advocate of a whole system approach – not just picking off parts of the housing system for particular attention or investment, or listening only to the loudest voices, but considering the links between tenures and the impact of legislation, policies and initiatives on individuals, organisations and housing markets across Wales. Putting this approach into practice is not helped by our current devolution settlement in which housing is devolved but property, finance,

consumer protection and welfare are not. However, we need to focus on what we are able to do in Wales and there is plenty – here are just a few suggestions.

Getting housing acknowledged as a key component of infrastructure alongside transport, energy and communications would be an important step. We know that not having the right housing in the right place can reduce economic performance, as demonstrated by MacLennan and O’Sullivan in the 2012 publication *Raising the Game*. We also know that a well-designed built environment can enhance quality of life. However, housing does not currently have anything like the same priority as other components of infrastructure. A new Welsh Government provides an opportunity to make this case and we should be unashamedly vocal and persistent in doing so.

Linked to this is the need for greater government investment in social housing. The latest calculations of housing need by Alan Holmans, published by the Public Policy Institute for Wales in September 2015, indicate that between 3,500 and 5,000 social sector homes are needed each year, compared to the just over 2,000 per year built during the current administration. So investment needs to be at least doubled in order to meet need. This might seem like a big ask, but the numbers are small when compared to spending in the big budget areas. Building social housing brings economic benefits and an adequate supply of social housing is a strong anti-poverty measure as well as an essential component of homelessness prevention.

We could also model the devolution of housing benefit (approximately £1billion a year) and how it might help decisions about grant rates and rent levels to be taken in the round. Could it, for example, enable a move to Living Rents, in which social rents are linked to income levels?

The future of the private rented sector would take a whole article in itself. The sector is growing, and suffice to say that there are issues with quality, affordability and security which negatively affect many households. Housing benefit is paid irrespective of the quality of accommodation, something that could be changed whether housing benefit is devolved or not, but more easily if it were. It might be appropriate to support the development of good quality private rented sector homes through loan funding, based on agreed standards of accommodation and management.

A deconstruction of the issues associated with owner-occupation would be similarly lengthy. My view is that good places and neighbourhoods require good quality, well-designed, well-located, mixed tenure homes. We need greater diversity of provision to reduce the dominance of the volume homebuilders and provide

more opportunities for people to build or commission a home themselves. There is certainly room for more collaborative solutions such as co-operative ownership and cohousing schemes, as well as greater emphasis on design of both homes and the surrounding environment. What about the provision of serviced plots for people who want to custom or self-build and a scheme specifically for community-led organisations, (as opposed to developers), to bring empty homes back into use?

The challenge in meeting the housing needs of many young people is particularly acute. In order to get anywhere close, we will have to be inventive and creative. We might link employment or self-employment and housing in ways that have not been done before, develop very low support shared housing or enable home-share schemes to become more widespread. We should certainly make sure that young people are not housed in bed and breakfast establishments.

One of our big challenges is taking a long-term view. The longer-term is really important in housing. Homes built now will be around for decades to come. A lack of flexibility of use, poor design or shoddy construction standards will come home to roost, as many communities across Wales have experienced.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act could really help here. We need to consider what the principles of taking decisions for the long-term, investing in early intervention and prevention, collaboration, integration and involvement of citizens look like when it comes to housing. If taken seriously, the Act could act as a catalyst for the construction of better quality homes and the development of different models of ownership, management and maintenance, as well as for desperately needed large-scale investment in improving the sustainability of homes across Wales.

Part of longer-term thinking is the role citizens’ play in identifying and providing solutions. With the right light-touch support and small amounts of money, there is a lot of potential here – the emergent co-operative and co-housing sector is an example. I would like to see a people’s housing bond for Wales in which citizens who are lucky enough to have savings could invest to support community-led housing. A bit of housing solidarity in action.

2020 is less than 1,500 days – let’s get cracking!



**A lack of flexibility of use, poor design or shoddy construction standards will come home to roost, as many communities across Wales have experienced.**

## Education *John Furlong*

John Furlong is Emeritus Professor of Education at Oxford University, and was appointed by Welsh Government to be the Initial Teacher Education and Training Adviser for Wales.



# Teachers as leaders of learning

One of the major achievements of our outgoing government has been the ambitious vision it has set for the future of our school system in Wales. For example, in *Qualified for life*<sup>1</sup> they state that in future:

‘Learners in Wales will enjoy teaching and learning that inspires them to succeed, in an education community that works cooperatively and aspires to be great, where the potential of every child and young person is actively developed.’

The reforms planned are going to include a new curriculum. Rather than traditional subjects, the curriculum will be based around six broad areas of learning and experience: expressive arts; health and well-being; humanities; languages, literacy and communication; mathematics and numeracy; and science and technology. And there will be a new approach to assessment with far less emphasis on testing than at present. Assessment will in the future be first and foremost focused on the needs of the child, using assessment diagnostically to support learning rather than to benchmark performance of one school against another.

The changes that are proposed will necessarily have major implications for the teaching profession. In the future, teachers will have far greater responsibility than at present for developing and implementing the curriculum in ways that are appropriate for the pupils they teach; they will also have far more responsibility for developing the right assessment strategies for their pupils. No longer are they to be merely responsible

for ‘delivering’ curriculum and assessment. Instead, teachers – all teachers – are to be seen as leaders of learning.

This is the vision that the current Welsh Government has given us. But if it is to be achieved over the next five years then it has major implications for building the capacity of the teaching profession to take on and lead these reforms. As the Welsh Government itself notes, ‘building the capacity of all practitioners and leaders, including the ability to reflect on and evaluate their own practice, to design and create a relevant, challenging and stimulating curriculum, and to apply appropriate pedagogical principles and practice’ (Welsh Government 2015: 8)<sup>2</sup> is going to be essential if these ambitions are to be realised. That has implications for teachers’ continuous professional development (CPD) and for their initial teacher education. CPD as an entitlement





**...the largest part of all teacher education should be based on learning that is both rigorously practical and intellectually challenging at the same time.**

for all teachers throughout their careers is being developed through what is called ‘the New Deal’ for teachers. Developing a new approach for initial teacher education (ITE) has been my own focus over the last two years as ITE adviser to the Welsh Government.

Underpinning my view as to how initial teacher education in the future needs to be organised in Wales is the recognition that high quality professional education necessarily involves a number of different modes of learning.

Some dimensions of teaching

(for example classroom management) can only be learned experientially. Other forms of learning are primarily intellectually based (learning about tried and tested theories of learning or child development). However, the largest part of all teacher education should be based on learning that is both rigorously practical and intellectually challenging at the same time.

As the OECD and others now recognise, the very best examples of teacher education internationally are based on this dual form of learning. In countries such as Finland and Singapore, student teachers are offered programmes that provide rigorous, systematic, practical training that is then combined with opportunities for challenge and reflection through intellectual engagement with other forms of professional knowledge, knowledge derived from theory, from research and from excellent practice elsewhere. This is the form of teacher education that is going to be essential for Wales if the government’s vision for its schools is to be achieved. This, however, has important consequences for both schools and universities and for how they collaborate.

If schools are to be given the task of providing systematic and structured training opportunities in relation to all of the core areas of the teacher education curriculum, then they will need to have the training and the resources to take on that responsibility. It is likely that in the future a smaller number of schools will be involved in initial teacher education than at present but with greater numbers of student teachers involved in them in different ways.

If the primary task of universities is to give student

teachers access to professional knowledge that is not normally available in schools (to research, to theory and to examples of excellent practice across Wales and internationally), their education faculties will need to have the staffing structures, staff development strategies and the sort of ‘scholarly culture’ that will ensure that all of their teacher educators are equipped to make these contributions. At present, this is not universally the case in Wales.

There are also implications for how schools and HEIs work together. At the programme level, programmes need to be devised so that there are structured opportunities for the different forms of professional knowledge provided by each partner to be brought together. These types of engagement can be achieved in a wide variety of ways – though for example joint appointments, ‘lesson study’ or ‘learning rounds’.

#### **Lesson study**

A Japanese model of teacher-led research in which a triad of teachers work together to target an identified area for development in their students’ learning.

#### **Learning rounds**

A system of group observation that is currently being promoted as an approach to professional learning in Scottish schools.

There are also implications for joint planning. Only if universities and a group of ‘lead partnership schools’ jointly engage in planning the programme as a whole will it have the coherence that is needed.

Finally there is a need for joint accountability. If truly collaborative teacher education is to be achieved then ‘the partnership’ – the higher education institutions together with all of their partner schools – must take joint responsibility for their contributions to the programme.

These are in essence the proposals that I have put forward for the reform of initial teacher education in Wales. They are I believe essential if the teaching profession is to take on and lead the ambitious programme of reform that is before us. Moreover, better quality initial teacher education means better provision for all of our children in Wales.

1. Welsh Government (2014). Qualified for Life – An education improvement plan  
2. Welsh Government (2015). A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life

# The Fifth Assembly *Liz Silversmith*

Liz Silversmith is Head of Monitoring at newsdirect wales and runs the Let Down Cardiff campaign.



## How many AMs does it take to change a light Bill?

**T**he latest Wales Bill, although only in draft form, promises the Assembly powers over its own elections and its own workings. Although not quite in time for this election (whilst the Bill struggles for agreement between the Welsh and UK Governments, as well as between the Welsh political parties), there is a consensus that the Assembly should govern its own electoral process, be made a permanent fixture of UK legislature and be granted further powers.

These powers could lead to many things but arguably, for the sake of autonomy, the most important aspect is the electoral system. The Scottish Parliament is already exercising its own control in this May's election by extending the vote to 16 and 17 year olds. Many in Wales were disappointed this wasn't a possibility in its own election.

Come 2020, we're looking at an Assembly with more powers, four years into its Fifth Assembly term. Its character and governance is of course dependent on who gets elected, but we can be sure it will be made up of at least five parties and that it will potentially be quite contentious as the wide-ranging views are aired between

the parties, including UKIP AMs' deep-seated criticism of devolution.

As the Welsh Revenue Authority works its way into action and Ministers learn how to use its financial levers, scrutiny in the Assembly will be more important than ever. By scrutiny, I mean in-depth committee inquiries into key issues, line-by-line examination of Bills and policy initiatives; debates where every opinion is heard and in which the wide range of viewpoints of non-governmental bodies are promoted by sympathetic AMs. This scrutiny puts a lot of pressure on the 60 AMs we currently have. In the last few years there have been calls for more Assembly Members from academics, but politicians continually insist that there is no 'public appetite' for 'more money spent on politics'. That may be the case now, but after four years of the Fifth Assembly, will the mood begin to turn?

A coalition government is also a strong possibility, which could not only absorb more AMs to support the government but perhaps results in one less party playing a full part in public scrutiny. If two parties are focusing their efforts on being cheer-leaders for the government – even if many are technically more impartial and vocal backbenchers – it will be down to whoever is left in opposition to hold them to account.

The Assembly was created with space for extra seats, so it has contingency plans for this literally built in. So if 20 extra AMs were created, who would they represent? The Parliamentary boundary review is expected to report in 2018, which will lead to a reduction in the number of Welsh MPs' constituencies to as few as 29. Many politicians, including the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, have said if there are to be more AMs then this must be in tandem with a reduction in MPs or councillors to ensure there isn't duplication and no unnecessary money spent. If the number of MPs is cut, this might be an opportune time for the Senedd to grow. The local government mergers, promised by Welsh Labour if they're still in power, also raises the prospect of reducing local councillors or even reforming entirely how they are elected. The Welsh Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru – both potential coalition partners – have already suggested this.

It's not a popular thing to say to regional AMs, but they arguably have more time for committee and scrutiny work than constituency AMs as they have less constituency matters to attend to. That's not to say they don't represent their area well, but that most casework inquiries from the general public go to local constituency AMs or MPs. So 20 more regional AMs,



**Come 2020, we're looking at an Assembly with more powers, four years into its Fifth Assembly term.**

say by increasing the representation in each region to eight AMs rather than four might, might also boost the scrutiny function. The Assembly could even change its area boundaries if needs be.

Something the Assembly lacks compared to Parliament is a degree of specialisation. MPs are often experts in specific areas, sometimes due to previous careers and sometimes due to issues that are prominent in their constituencies. For example, an MP might be particularly knowledgeable on a country whose inhabitants have migrated to their constituency and developed strong links. AMs don't really have the time to be expert on particular issues unless their committee responsibilities demand it. There have been concerns raised about the general capacity of committees – this was highlighted in the last Assembly when the Health and Social Care Committee had to consider so many significant pieces of legislation that it was not able to conduct many own-initiative inquiries. These are often the most insightful and useful pieces of research for the Welsh Government; one example is the Environment and Sustainability Committee's inquiry into a 'smarter energy future for Wales', inspired by Germany's successful and incredible switch to

collectively-owned, affordable, renewable energy production.

More regional AMs may also lead to smaller parties, like the Greens, having more of a chance. A multi-party Assembly is something electoral reformists are very keen to see and, by virtue of more views being heard, can lead to richer scrutiny. Since the 2015 general election, there has been a renewal of disbelief that so many votes are lost under the first-past-the-post system, and representation is skewed so that even though the SNP received far fewer overall votes than UKIP, they have 56 MPs and UKIP has one. There's also the much-quoted figure that less than a quarter of the country voted for the government that came into power. This certainly increases voter apathy – when the disillusioned actually do register and vote then find that no one in the party they voted for came close to power.

It is inevitable that the Assembly will need more politicians if it is to 'do more politics'. It's a question of when rather than if. The risk is that it will leave the decision too long – will so many things slip through the cracks that the Senedd is forced to introduce extra seats in a hurry, or will it decide of its own accord and do it properly?

## Health *Jonathan Richards*

Jonathan Richards has worked as a general practitioner in Merthyr Tydfil for more than thirty years. He is Locality Clinical Director at Cwm Taf University Health Board and a Visiting Professor of Primary Care at the University of South Wales. He writes in a personal capacity.



# Beyond an NHS of soundbites and slogans

**W**ho decides on the priorities in Government and on targets to aim for when considering the Wales we want in 2020?

Chris Bolton gives an excellent starting point in a recent blog post – ‘Astroturfing: Is Grass Roots Opinion Real or Manufactured?’. ‘Astroturfing’ is the practice of generating false grassroots opinion, often using social media. The answers you get depend not only on the questions you pose but also the way in which they are asked and who is providing the answers. We are now used to the influences of spin on the way that ideas are presented, but what about underlying influences that we may not be aware of?

This is what seems to be happening in the health service.

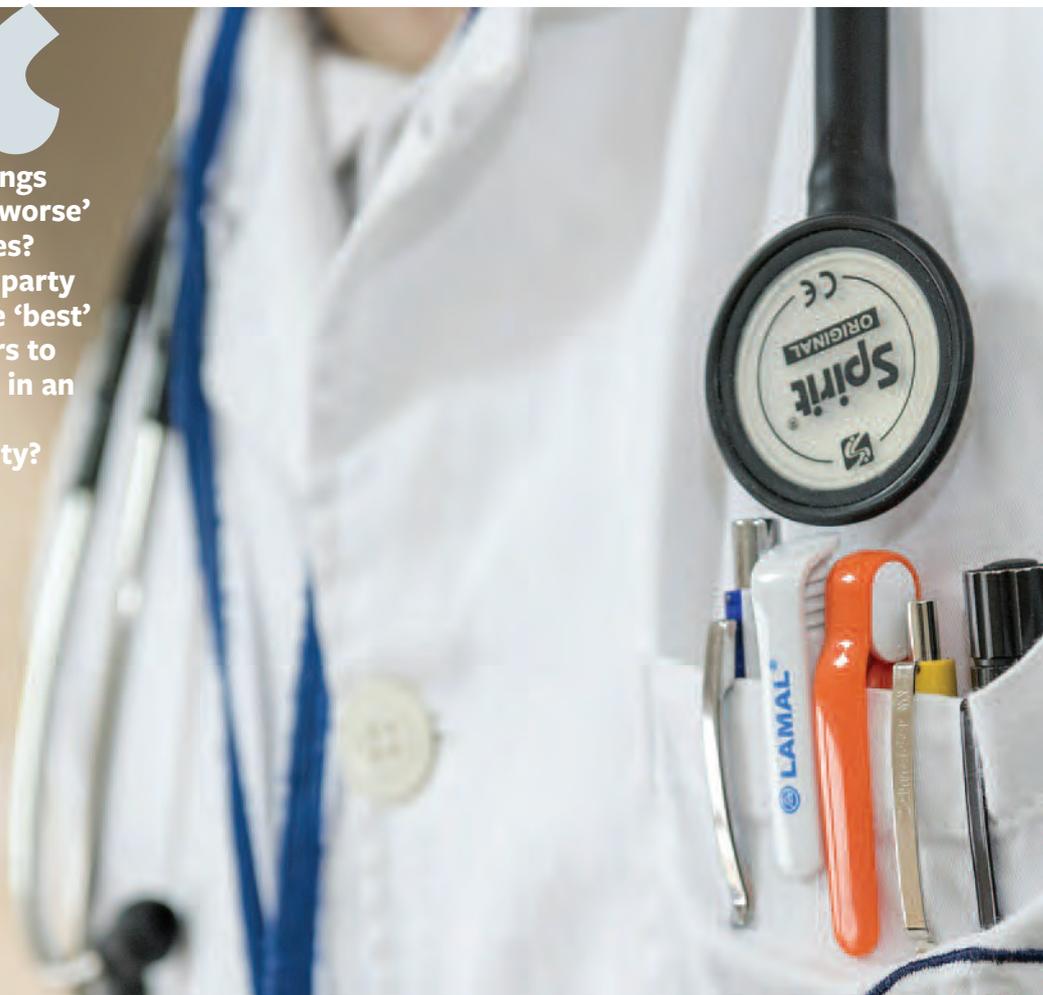
When people are asked about what really matters to them, they mention continuity of care, dignity and

compassion, trust in the people serving them and people who listen to their concerns. You will find examples of these hard-to-measure factors in National Health Service Performance Indicators and in the Health and Care Standards for Wales mixed in with a large number of easier-to-measure indicators of uncertain value.

A guaranteed hot topic in the imminent Assembly Election campaign will be the quality and range of the NHS in Wales. Are



Are things really ‘worse’ in Wales? Which party has the ‘best’ answers to quality in an age of austerity?



things really ‘worse’ in Wales? Which party has the ‘best’ answers to quality in an age of austerity? When I listen to debates and arguments on the topics I am reminded of the insights into “utilitarian rational-choice economic thinking and cost-benefit analysis” provided by the American writer Martha Nussbaum in her book *Poetic Justice: The literary imagination and public life* (Beacon Press, Boston 1995).

Nussbaum’s book emerged from her work on establishing a framework for quality of life assessment, something she describes as ‘human flourishing’. She uses novels and poetry to demonstrate the ways in which so much contemporary thinking has taken on board some dangerous and unhelpful underlying assumptions. It is interesting to note in passing how society now faces similar challenges as neoliberalism sets the agenda and dominates the ways in which discussions are framed.

Nussbaum identifies four elements in rational-choice decision making:

1. Commensurability
2. Aggregation
3. Maximisation, and
4. Exogenous preferences.

Commensurability involves “regarding all the valuable things under consideration as measurable on a single scale that itself exhibits only differences of quantity not quality.” This activity can be observed in many current assessment and quality scales and measures. What matters is the number on the scale, not what that number might actually mean.

Aggregation occurs “when a social result is obtained by pooling the data about and from individual lives without regarding the boundaries between lives as especially salient for the purposes of choice.” A consequence of spin and astroturfing can be observed when the preferences of everyone are assumed to be the same and are often taken for granted. This happens with nearly all performance indicators and rating scales in use today, which is alarming given their significance in constructing health policy.

Maximising is “the commitment to see both individual and social rationality as aimed at getting as large an amount of something as possible.” In their daily lives people make choices about what matters more to them at a particular moment; the choices may change as circumstances change. A core component of co-production, one of the four pillars of prudent healthcare, is the eliciting and respecting of someone’s choices and priorities. One person may choose a shorter but pain



“  
**...the  
 commitment to  
 see both  
 individual and  
 social  
 rationality as  
 aimed at getting  
 as large an  
 amount of  
 something as  
 possible.**

free life, another a longer life lived with pain.

Exogenous preferences are the priorities and preferences assumed to matter to everyone by economists, politicians and planners – they are taken as given with no accounting of the wide range of factors that will influence the choices that each person will make. This is especially the case when comparing the NHS in England with the NHS in Wales. I struggle to think of the Welsh NHS as worse; it is different with different priorities and values. It is like comparing apples and oranges.

This made me recall a visit by Michael Meacher to Merthyr Tydfil in the mid 1980s when he was Shadow Secretary of State for Health. I asked why he did not challenge the Government’s statements and policies by talking about values and principles. He replied that the health service was very complex and no media outlet gave him the time to explain or understand the arguments that he wanted to present.

Devolution, austerity, prudent healthcare and the potential impacts of new technologies have made the issues even more complicated than they were when the Shadow Minister visited. Is it time we agree that the NHS should not be subjected to slogans and soundbites? We shall have to revisit this in 2020 and see if this has been achieved.

## Older People *Judith Phillips*

Judith Phillips was Professor of Gerontology at Swansea University and Director of the Older People Research and Ageing Research and Development Network (OPAN Cymru) and the Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research in Wales until March 2016. This article is based on a conversations between Judith Phillips and the Bevan Foundation.



# Ageing Well? Improving later life by 2020

**A**geing is one of the big global challenges we face – it's up there with climate change and the provision of clean water. In Wales, the population of older people is forecast to increase, so that by 2022 there are expected to be 115,000 more people aged 65 and over than there were in 2012. The older population is increasingly heterogeneous, for example including more people living alone; more people with complex health needs and higher numbers of black and minority ethnic older people. The rise in the older population likely to need social care has coincided with serious reductions in public funding, bringing real challenges for policy and practice in Wales.

I see two big issues that a future Welsh Government will need to address, together with its local authority partners and third sector organisations. The first is integration, so that health services, including mental health services, and social care services work together to improve older people's quality of life. All too often older people fall through the gaps and cracks in these systems. The second is prevention, to reduce the likelihood of people needing health and social care services as well as their general well-being in later life.

These issues are not new of course, but the pressure to do something about them is greater than ever.

A future government needs to make resources of all kinds available, and available for all levels of provision – not just the headline-grabbing issues that lead to a reactive service response, such as waits on trolleys. There shouldn't be carte blanche reduction, instead we need to target money on the right services. We also need to use resources more effectively, such as supporting small-scale social enterprises for example which could be scaled up. It's really looking to place resources that achieve long-term outcomes not just short-term wins. We should be putting

resources where we have effective activity already, committing ourselves and really delivering, evaluating it properly – not just a tick box evaluation but finding what works for the ordinary person in the street – and scaling up across Wales. It's a different mind-set really.

Prevention and integration are not new, and the reason we've not yet got them right is the million dollar question. It's easy to say that it's the responsibility of government and government haven't delivered. But whatever government does, however they organise it, it's really difficult to be truly integrated. It's easy to say it depends on resources, and that where the money goes to is the driver of a lot of integration.

A complete restructuring is one obvious way of achieving integration – but it could also be a waste of money. We should be honest that there isn't a clear solution. Our best bet is if we look at where it works across Wales we can learn and scale up, rather than impose a blanket reorganisation that doesn't actually result in anything.

We've got some very good building blocks to help us make that shift. We've got the older people's strategy, now in its third version, and the office of the Older People's Commission, for example, which provide the key frameworks for a change in approach. But the problem is that not everybody builds on these foundations – they don't go back to the older people's strategy. We need to find a way to encourage people to take the strategy forward, and make sure that there's good research and good practice based on it. I don't think the different elements are joined-up enough to show that we are improving the lives of older people in Wales which, at the end of the day, is what is important.

In terms of research, we face the familiar disconnect between researching the things that we should be researching in Wales and the interests and expertise of researchers. That's partly a result of higher education's 'research excellence framework', although the new focus on 'impact' should drive a lot of research to the



**Age discrimination is the one discrimination that remains - when it comes to age it's a free for all in language and terminology**

policy and practice agendas. There's also been a lack of commissioning of research on social care and older people, particularly at local level.

It's not rocket science to join these things together. We've been trying to achieve this aim at the Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research at Swansea University by mapping our research agenda against the agenda of the 'Ageing Well in Wales' initiative. The difficulty comes when policy initiatives change and research is regarded with scepticism. Policy makers need to understand and value good quality research if they are to learn; academics need to understand the policy context.

During times of austerity the whole issue of inter-generational equity tends to come up, with headlines like 'older people scrounging off the young' fuelling debate. It is very unhelpful. We should not accept this and instead need to reframe our thinking. Age discrimination

is the one discrimination that remains – when it comes to age it's a free for all in language and terminology. Older people are very productive in society, for example more people over the age of 55 start their own businesses than people under the age of 25, so we need to think through the contribution they make and discuss ageing in a more positive and nuanced way.

The increasing number of older people in Wales in the next five years is probably one of the few things we can be certain of. If we can change how we think about this and stop discriminating against older people, as well as build on the progress we've made, whether it's initiatives such as 'Ageing Well in Wales' or good practice in some social enterprises, understand what works (and what doesn't), and allocate sufficient resources for the long-term, then we should be able to make later life a good life for everyone.



## Tax *Nisreen Mansour*

Nisreen Mansour is Policy and Research Officer at the Bevan Foundation.



# A positive take on Wales' new tax powers

**W**ales and tax have a tricky relationship. As the devolved administration has been the recipient of Barnett handouts, it has not had to become responsible for raising what it spends. Some would argue this has been a blessing as, after all, Wales spends more than it raises. Others point out that the National Assembly for Wales is not fully accountable without tax-raising powers, and it is not directly affected by revenue changes resulting from its policy decisions.

This is all set to change between now and 2020. Currently, the only taxes raised and retained in Wales are business rates and council tax, equating to approximately £2 billion a year. By 2020, the devolved administration could feasibly be responsible for raising approximately twenty per cent of all taxes collected in Wales. On top of business rates and council tax, the UK rates of stamp duty land tax and landfill tax will both

cease to apply in April 2018, and land transaction and landfill disposal taxes will be collected for the first time.

While both of these taxes raise roughly £220 million a year in Wales, it is the prospect of a Welsh rate of income tax that really has the potential to increase the revenue raised in Wales. If devolved (let's not even get started on the referendum issue ...), it could be a significant chunk of Wales' annual budget. The OBR forecasts that for 2019/20, Welsh income tax receipts will total £2.5 billion.

But what if Wales were to do things differently? What if we didn't just raise the taxes which have explicitly been devolved to us, but considered introducing new taxes? And what if we didn't just think of taxes as a way to raise revenue, but as a way to change people's behaviour?

According to the Wales Act 2014, it can be done. The National Assembly for Wales could introduce a new



**Proponents argue that a sugary drinks tax will go a long way to reducing consumption, but that it will need to be set high enough to influence behaviour.**



devolved tax if it meets a specific set of criteria, and if it is approved by both Houses of Parliament. There are a lot of hoops to jump through, but new devolved taxes are possible.

So, which to pick? And what to expect? The Bevan Foundation's work on new devolved taxes has made one thing clear – no tax can be viewed as a panacea to any particular social, health or environmental problem. Rather, taxes aimed at changing behaviour should only be introduced as part of a raft of measures to achieve the intended outcome, and any revenues should be assumed to be depreciating.

A sugar tax is an excellent example of this. It is an idea which has attracted plenty of attention in recent months, and there have been suggestions that Wales should take the lead and tax this 'harm' which is damaging our children's teeth and heavily contributing to Wales' obesity epidemic. Leading health organisations, including the BMA and Public Health England, have come out in support of it and NHS England is already planning to introduce a 'sugar tax' in hospitals.

Proposals for a Welsh sugar tax have tended to focus on taxing fizzy or sugary drinks, including fruit juices and flavoured waters. Sugar – whether naturally occurring or not – is both cariogenic and has a calorific value, hence the inclusion of fruit-based drinks. And while it may seem more logical for the tax to be applied to all products containing sugar or added sugar, these foods are an essential source of calories for low-income families.

Proponents argue that a sugary drinks tax will go a long way to reducing consumption, but that it will need to be set high enough to influence behaviour. A minimum rate of 20% tax has been suggested by many 'pop tax' advocates. Research suggests that this would reduce the prevalence of obesity by 1.3% in the UK, indicating that a few thousand people in Wales should be expected to see their weight reduce to a healthy level with the introduction of this tax.

However, any new devolved tax cannot be thought about without taking into account Wales' particular circumstances. The National Assembly for Wales does not have full fiscal powers, and any existing taxes it may like to play with to soften the blow of a new tax are out of its control. The capabilities of the Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) to collect and manage new taxes (or outsource this responsibility) must also be considered while the WRA is still in its infancy, and, importantly, Wales' geography, economy and population size are all factors.

Let us start with Wales' 'long and porous' border. Around half of Wales' population lives within 25 miles



**But what if Wales were to do things differently? What if we didn't just raise the taxes which have explicitly been devolved to us, but considered introducing new taxes?**

of the English border, making it relatively convenient to cross over to purchase tax-free sugary drinks for both domestic and wholesale purchases if a tax were introduced. This may seem like a drastic move, but Denmark experienced a surge in cross-border purchasing with the introduction of its fat tax.

Expectations must be measured when considering manufacturers' and retailers' response to any new taxes. Recipe or packaging-size changes are unlikely for a market of only three million people. New devolved taxes remind us that Wales' market is small, really small.

The wider economic impact of a new tax is also very important. The potential negative consequences of a sugar tax include job losses, high administration costs and inflation. While taxes on alcohol and tobacco pose the same problem, introducing an additional tax burden could be off-putting to those looking to invest in Wales or for businesses currently based here.

So, any new devolved taxes – including a pop tax – would need to take into account a challenging set of circumstances. But this should not be a deterrent. Wales' new tax powers are a very exciting opportunity to enable policymakers to influence peoples' decisions in a whole new way and should become an important part of their toolkit.

Many would question that new taxes have any role to play as we strive to make Wales a fairer, greener and more prosperous place to live and work by 2020. But we have limited resources to tackle the big social, environmental and health challenges we can expect to face by this date, so it is time we start looking at all the powers we have to change the path we're on, and spread the cost of harmful behaviour to, in turn, reduce it.

## Showcase

## Friends of the Earth

Gareth Clubb is Director of Friends of the Earth Cymru.



# A bottle deposits scheme for Wales

**H**alf of all the drinks containers we buy end up being incinerated or buried in the ground. Doesn't that seem like a waste to you?

Imagine if there was a way that we could see 90% of drinks containers either re-used or recycled. Imagine that this method was already being used in countries around the world, on four different continents, with massive public support.

Now imagine a Wales where drinks litter – one of the biggest components of litter that blights our communities right across Wales – vanished, almost overnight.

The method is one that was mastered right here in Wales. Many of you will have fond memories of the Corona bottle. Who didn't delight as a child in finding a Corona<sup>1</sup> or Lowes<sup>2</sup> bottle and returning it to the vendor for the princely sum of 10p?

At least, who above the age of 40 didn't experience that delight. Because in the 1980s, this remarkably

sustainable way of reusing glass bottles time and time again started to founder. It coincided with the realisation by the drinks companies that they could make more profit if they didn't bother taking responsibility for the waste their industry generated.

And so it began – the wholesale destruction or burial of millions of tonnes of glass and plastic – all to ensure the shareholders of the drinks companies got that little bit extra of dividend.

Students of economics will be well versed in the theory of 'free-riding'. In this case, the drinks companies used to take responsibility for their containers through organising their return, cleansing and re-sale. And now? Taxpayers bear the load every single step of the way.

It's taxpayers who fund the recycling collection systems that pick up the empties that could be collected instead by a deposit system. It's taxpayers who fund the incinerators and landfill sites that guzzle all the cans, bottles and cartons that could be collected by a deposit



**And so it began – the wholesale destruction or burial of millions of tonnes of glass and plastic – all to ensure the shareholders of the drinks companies got that little bit extra of dividend.**

system. It's taxpayers who pay for the litter bins to be emptied – bins full of drinks containers that could be collected by a deposit system. It's us taxpayers who pay for the street sweepers and litter-pickers that pick up drinks containers that a deposit system would capture. It's taxpayers who pay to send all that litter to landfill and incineration. It's taxpayers who pay into a system of grants that fund community groups to pick up litter that could be collected instead by deposit systems.

And who pays for the drinks litter that ends up in the fields, hedgerows, mountains of Wales? The cans and bottles that swim down our streams and rivers and end up scattered gaily on our beaches and circulating endlessly in the oceans? Well, that would be society, which ends up paying through environmental damage and littered landscapes. You and me, cyfeillion.

But it doesn't have to be this way. We can return to our more virtuous past by following a trail blazed by tens of other countries<sup>3</sup>. They've found that deposit-return

systems for drinks containers can markedly reduce litter and result in very high collection rates for drinks containers (up to 95% in some cases). They can create jobs and provide new business opportunities while reducing resource use and the volume of materials which are destroyed or buried. There is also evidence that deposit schemes can provide a revenue stream for community groups and reduce injuries by taking glass out of the general litter stream.

While there are several different models of deposit systems in operation worldwide, the schemes generally follow the same principles. Retailers pay distributors a deposit for each can or bottle purchased which they can then collect from consumers who purchase the relevant beverages. When a consumer returns a container for recycling, the retailer refunds the deposit to the consumer. The retailer then recoups that money from the distributor through returning the container, often with a small handling fee included. Because not all containers are returned, some unrefunded deposits remain in the system. This money is returned to the state

The costs of the system are thus borne by both the distributors of drinks containers and by consumers who choose to forgo their deposits.

It's the reason the drinks industry lobbies furiously against new deposit schemes. Because some customers will decide not claim their deposit back, it has the effect of increasing the price of purchased drinks. And that, in turn, could depress the sales of these drinks, which has the effect of – you guessed it – reducing the profits of the drinks industry. So we have the bizarre situation where the drinks lobby is desperately lobbying against deposit systems because it's currently free-loading on society and wants us all to pay its costs. Gee thanks.

I mentioned that deposit systems enjoy huge public support. It's one of the reasons that a deposit system's introduction is absolutely inevitable here in Wales. Friends of the Earth Cymru is one of a number of organisations that are coalescing to encourage politicians of all parties to actively work towards Wales becoming a show-case for sustainability through introducing deposits for drinks containers. We did it for carrier bags; we can do it for drinks. Here's to a more sustainable future.

**To find out more about Friends of the Earth Cymru's campaign to introduce a bottle deposits scheme in Wales, visit [www.foe.co.uk/cymru](http://www.foe.co.uk/cymru)**

1. Corona was established in Porth, Rhondda  
 2. Lowes of Cardiff  
 3. Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Guam, Iceland, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Turks and Caicos, USA <http://www.bottlebill.org/legislation/world.htm>



## How would you spend Wales' welfare budget?

We started 2016 with the second and third events in our 'Can Welfare Work for Wales?' discussion series, asking representatives from political parties in Wales how they would spend Wales' welfare budget.

In early February, Owen Smith MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales, discussed the impact of welfare reform in Wales. He argued that people in Wales should export their ideals and values for the social security system rather than look inwards, and stressed that welfare provisions cannot be looked at without considering the wider economic challenges facing the UK. Delegates also heard from a panel of representatives from Age Cymru, Shelter Cymru and Working Links.

In March, Craig Williams MP, the only representative of a Welsh constituency on the Work and



Pensions Select Committee, spoke to our audience. He offered an overview of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, and stated that the biggest challenge is getting the Welsh Government and UK Government to work together effectively on social security. His speech was followed by a panel discussion with representatives from the Learning and Work Institute, Rehab JobFit and Welsh Women's Aid.

The talks are available to view on our website, where you can also download the conference reports for both events.

## Call for a new approach to tackle fuel poverty

The Bevan Foundation's Director, Victoria Winckler, delivered the keynote address at the National Energy Action Cymru conference in February. She used her speech to call for a rethink over the way we try to combat fuel poverty in Wales.

Based on the findings from the Bevan Foundation's *Wales in 2020* report, Victoria Winckler highlighted how a combination of falling incomes amongst the least well off, the growth of the private rented sector, and the likelihood of more extreme weather is "a game-changer."

She continued, "the NEST programme is valuable but it is only able to help 68,000 households since it was created in 2011, a tiny proportion of the 330,000 households affected by fuel poverty in Wales. Increasingly there are cases being reported of families whose incomes are so low they cannot afford to heat their homes at all, which is why a new approach is needed."

Visit [www.bevanfoundation.org](http://www.bevanfoundation.org) to view Victoria Winckler's presentation for the National Energy Action Cymru conference.



# Members' NEWS

- Marie Curie has launched their manifesto ahead of this year's Assembly Election. They are calling for everyone who needs palliative care to have access to it by 2021, a new public health campaign to support the bereaved as well as the dying and a biannual survey of the bereaved. The full manifesto can be found here: [www.tinyurl.com/mariecurie2016](http://www.tinyurl.com/mariecurie2016)

- Marie Curie have published their latest publication "The hidden challenges of palliative cancer care." Every year 167,000 die from cancer, yet access to high-quality care and palliative care remains inconsistent. The report can be found here: [www.mariecurie.org.uk/policy/publications](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/policy/publications)

- indycube has recently launched a mutualisation scheme, which will see the CIC (Community Interest Company) morph into a CBS (Community Benefit Society). The shift means that indycube is now owned by the community, which democratises any decisions made about the company, widens all input and expands objectives across the board.

- Rehab JobFit, one of Wales' leading welfare to work providers, is committed to excellent and supportive supply chain management. This is demonstrated by their recent overhaul of Partnership Plus, their toolkit for this, which is due to be launched within their supply chain imminently. If you would like to know more about working with Rehab JobFit then please visit [www.rehabjobfit.com](http://www.rehabjobfit.com)

- Countdown begins to clean coast week 2016: our coastline needs you! Keep Wales Tidy is urging people to volunteer their time during Clean Coast Week and help care for our award-winning Welsh coastline. The fourth annual Clean Coast Week, sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, takes place from the 23 April – 1 May 2016. To join an arranged clean up event or organise your own, visit [www.keepwalestidy.org](http://www.keepwalestidy.org)

- Cartrefi Cymru, one of Wales' largest social enterprises, is to continue its long standing partnership with Bridgend County Council following the successful retendering of its learning disability services. Building on a relationship of 25 years, the partners are looking forward to many more years of collaboration, innovation and quality outcomes.

- Wales Co-operative Centre has received three years' Welsh Government funding to support the development of collective, user-empowering models of social care. The funding will also support the work of the Social Co-operation Forum (co-founded and chaired by Cartrefi Cymru) which enables activists across Wales to benefit from shared learning and collaboration.

- The All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers of People with Learning Disabilities has received Welsh Government funding for a three year programme of activities under the banner 'All Together Now'. One of

the work-streams ("Building Communities Together") is being delivered in partnership with Cartrefi Cymru. It will bring together carers, relatives and support staff to develop self-help actions for rural community inclusion.

- The Big Lottery Fund (Wales) is funding the creation of a new network which aims to make co-production the default approach for the design and delivery of public services, with people and professionals sharing power as equals. The three year project, a partnership between Co-production Wales and WCVA, is being hosted by Cartrefi Cymru.

- The Coalfields Regeneration Trust launched its new three year strategy to MPs and stakeholders in Westminster on St. David's Day, reaffirming its commitment to the 5.5 million people living in former coalfield communities who continue to suffer some of the highest levels of unemployment, poor health and low educational attainment in the UK and especially in Wales; the Valleys being the slowest area to recover in the UK from the demise of the industry.

- Oxfam Cymru's three-year, £1.1M Building Livelihoods and Strengthening Communities in Wales project has come to an end having helped 1,100 marginalised people and demonstrated an ROI of £4 for every £1. Oxfam calls on the next Welsh Government to embed the project's SLA approach in future anti-poverty programmes.

# Ruth Coombs

Head of British Heart Foundation Cymru



## In 140 characters describe the British Heart Foundation Cymru?

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is the biggest funder of cardiovascular research in the UK. We help scientists to undertake pioneering research into many different heart conditions, their diagnosis and treatment and we are committed to funding the very best science in order to achieve that goal.

## What is your role at the British Heart Foundation Cymru?

As the Head of BHF Cymru, I'm responsible for the strategic coordination and collaboration of the different strands of BHF's work in Wales to maximise our impact. I lead on the external profile of BHF Cymru, especially the impact of our research and evidence-based practice from the laboratory and how this carries through to improving care and support for people with cardiovascular disease in Wales, while also heading-up the policy and advocacy work in Wales.

## What do you enjoy most about working at the British Heart Foundation Cymru?

I think it's being able to talk with people whose lives have benefitted from the research and innovation the BHF funds and talking to the researchers who dedicate their lives to finding solutions. We have an active research portfolio of over £5 million of cardiovascular research at Cardiff University. One of the teams here is led by BHF Professor Alan Williams, who looks at improvements for managing abnormal heart rhythms – where current treatments are not very effective, and discovering new ways of diagnosing the disease earlier and treating it more effectively.

I also enjoy getting out and about, visiting our shops and getting to know our volunteers there.

Our supporters in Wales are passionate about BHF Cymru and we are too.

## If the British Heart Foundation Cymru were a biscuit what would it be?

It would have to be a Jammy Dodger because our research is the solution to the sticky heart in the middle.

## What are the biggest challenges facing the British Heart Foundation Cymru?

Unfortunately we have very high levels of poor heart health in Wales, coupled with high levels of poverty. Cardiovascular disease causes more than a quarter of deaths in Wales – an average of 25 people a day.

The reality for too many people trying to access heart care is patchy and disconnected services. This is exacerbated by much of Wales being rural with poor public transport and road infrastructures.

Our biggest challenge is making sure that people with cardiovascular disease get holistic, evidence-based, patient-centred care. We also want Wales to be the first UK Nation of Lifesavers, where every child leaves secondary school knowing how to do CPR and save a life.

## If you could invite anyone, dead or alive, to a dinner party who would you invite?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela because they are so inspirational and it would be fascinating to learn more about their work together to heal South Africa; and Sir Ian Botham as we are all huge cricket fans and he is one of England's greatest all-rounders. The only risk is we would spend so much time talking we wouldn't eat!

## Why are you members of the Bevan Foundation?

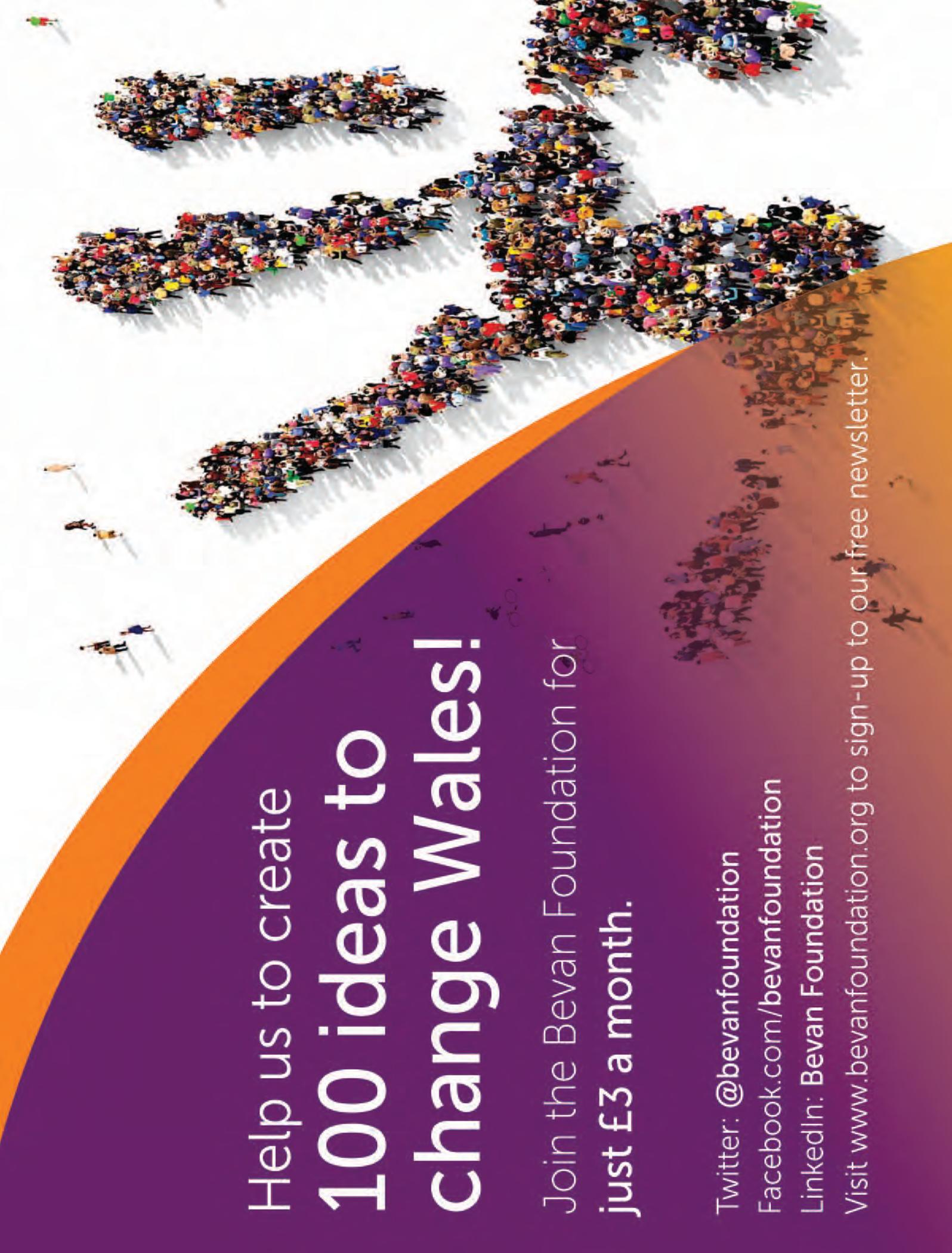
I like the approach the Bevan Foundation takes to bringing independent voices together to highlight the issues challenges facing Wales today and some of the solutions.

*Ideas That Change Wales*



Want to stay  
up-to-date with  
our latest events,  
publications and  
briefings...

Make sure you check your members'  
e-newsletter and visit  
[www.bevanfoundation.org/member-login](http://www.bevanfoundation.org/member-login)



Help us to create  
**100 ideas to  
change Wales!**

Join the Bevan Foundation for  
**just £3 a month.**

Twitter: [@bevanfoundation](https://twitter.com/bevanfoundation)

Facebook: [facebook.com/bevanfoundation](https://facebook.com/bevanfoundation)

LinkedIn: [Bevan Foundation](https://linkedin.com/company/bevan-foundation)

Visit [www.bevanfoundation.org](https://www.bevanfoundation.org) to sign-up to our free newsletter.