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CYMRU  
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WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

**Public Health Wales' plan to maintain and enhance biodiversity  
and promote the resilience of ecosystems**

**Biodiversity** means the variety of living organisms on Earth

**Ecosystems** are our plants, animals, air, water, minerals and soils, and how they interact

Our health and well-being depends upon a healthy environment, which includes using our natural resources in a sustainable way and supporting our **biodiversity**.

**Ecosystems** are vital for public health and well-being providing our food and medicines, regulating our water and controlling disease, and supporting our leisure.

## BACKGROUND

As a public body in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Public Health Wales is also required in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. We need to take this action as our ecosystems and the biodiversity that supports them are in decline.

'**Making Space for Nature**' sets out how the organisation will meet its duty. Public Health Wales will publish its first progress report by 2019, followed by every three years.

Contributing to Wales' well-being goals and Public Health Wales' well-being objectives

The organisation's work to support biodiversity also contributes to the well-being goal for 'a resilient Wales', as well as Public Health Wales' strategic priorities/ well-being objectives (see below).



## ACTIONS

Public Health Wales will meet its biodiversity duty through five areas for action:

### 1. Engaging and supporting our staff



- Raise awareness across the organisation on how staff can support biodiversity in their individual roles, through our 'Be the Change' (individual-level behaviour change) movement/campaign, including building advocacy for this into the role of 'wellbeing link'
- Promote the benefits of volunteering to staff, particularly in the context of nature/green spaces, with a focus on how this has clear links to physical activity
- Encourage our staff to explore how garden/green space ideas could be taken forward at Public Health Wales' local sites (including the space on the Capital Quarter, Cardiff site)
- Make a longer term commitment to scoping how volunteering can be supported more formally in the organisation



## 2. Sustainable procurement



- Review our corporate paper order (for internal printing) to ensure that it is from sustainable forests, and reduce the amount of paper purchased
- Request paper from sustainable sources in the specification for the organisation's new (external) print contract, and encourage colleagues to reduce print quantities
- Review our corporate cleaning supplies to ensure they are biodegradable
- Source further opportunities to procure goods which are biodegradable and/or made from re-used/recycled materials (including local procurement), as well as reducing need where possible



### 3. Developing our estate



- Look for opportunities on encouraging biodiversity and supporting bees and wildlife across our estate, for example appropriate and diverse planting, wildflower areas for pollinators, and leaving areas of unmown grass, whilst involving our staff and seeking expert guidance from Natural Resources Wales
- Ensuring that our contractors use paint which is low in toxicity and emissions



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## 4. Our environmental sustainability programme



- Continue work to reduce our organisational carbon footprint, including the use of our 'Be the Change' individual-level behaviour change 'movement'. This work includes monitoring our footprint and undertaking action that will have the greatest impact on reducing it
- Continue to promote the reduction, re-use and recycling of materials, including food waste, through the organisation's 'environmental sustainability programme'



## 5. Supporting other public bodies in Wales



- Deliver a seminar for NHS Wales Directors of Estates and Directors of Planning, in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales, on increasing access to green space on or near to NHS Wales land
- Establish a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with Natural Resources Wales, including an associated action plan
- Develop guidance on the Biodiversity Duty for NHS Wales



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## How we have applied the five ways of working (Well-being of Future Generations Act)

The table below highlights how we have applied the sustainable development principle, through its five ways of working, to writing our first biodiversity plan:

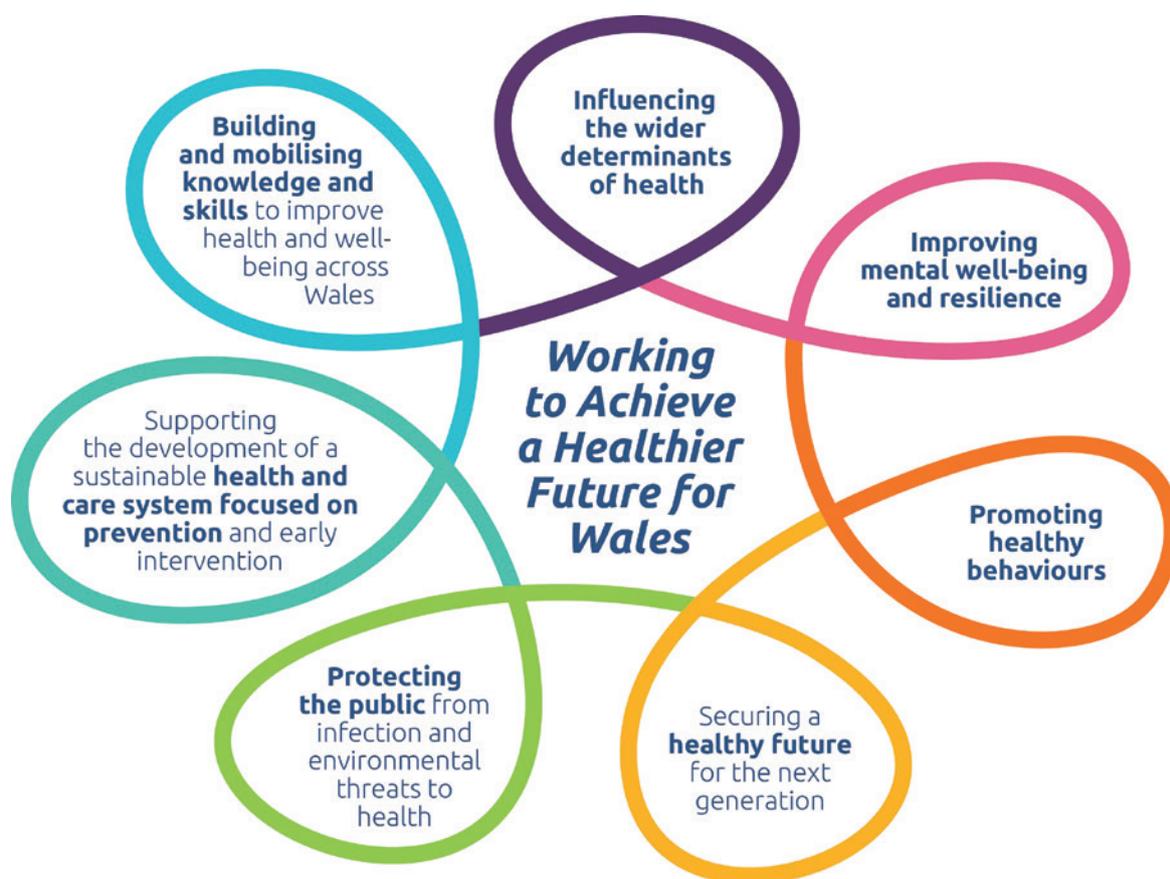
 <b>Long term</b>	Public Health Wales will include biodiversity as a consideration in the delivery of our long-term strategy
 <b>Prevention</b>	Through our 'environmental sustainability programme', we are working to reduce our carbon footprint
 <b>Integration</b>	Our strategic priorities/well-being objectives include 'Protecting the public from infection and environmental threats to health'
 <b>Collaboration</b>	We are working with several partner organisations on our biodiversity plan, including Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, Invest in Nature Cymru, and Wales Biodiversity Partnership
 <b>Involvement</b>	A range of colleagues across the organisation have contributed to our biodiversity plan, including colleagues in corporate areas, service-delivery, and staff with a background in ecology

# How our actions contribute to the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales

PHW'S 5 AREAS FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY					
	Engaging and supporting our staff	Sustainable procurement	Developing our estate	Our env. sus. programme	Supporting other public bodies
NRAP OBJECTIVES					
1. Embed biodiversity in decision-making at all levels					
2. Safeguard key habitats and species					
3. Increase ecosystem resilience					
4. Tackle key pressures					
5. Improve evidence and understanding					
6. Governance and support for delivery					

**The actions in this plan are also contributing to meeting Public Health Wales' strategic priorities/well-being objectives:**

- Influencing the wider determinants of health
- Improving mental well-being and building resilience
- Promoting healthy behaviours
- Securing a healthy future for the next generation
- Protecting the public from infection and environmental threats to health
- Supporting the development of a sustainable health and care system focused on prevention and early intervention
- Building and mobilising knowledge and skills to improve health and well-being across Wales



**More information**

For further information, including to suggest further sustainable steps, please e-mail the Health and Sustainability Hub: [publichealth.sustainability@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:publichealth.sustainability@wales.nhs.uk)