

Agenda – Public Accounts Committee

Meeting Venue:

For further information contact:

Video Conference via Zoom

Fay Bowen

Meeting date: 18 January 2021

Committee Clerk

Meeting time: 08.30

0300 200 6565

SeneddPAC@senedd.wales

(Private Pre-meeting)

(09.00 – 09.30)

In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Evidence Session 5

(09.30 – 10.45)

(Pages 1 – 4)

Research Briefing

Ceredigion County Council

Alun Williams, Corporate Lead Officer

Diana Davies, Corporate Manager

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Annwen Morgan – Chief Executive

Cllr. Llinos Medi – Leader

Gethin Morgan – Program Manager, Business Planning and Performance



(Break)

(10.45 – 10.55)

3 Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Evidence Session 6

(10.55 – 12.10)

Flintshire County Council

Karen Armstrong – Corporate Business and Communications Executive
Officer

Powys County Council

Dr Caroline Turner – Chief Executive
Emma Palmer – Head of Transformation and Communications

4 Paper(s) to note

(12.10 – 12.15)

4a Inquiry into COVID-19 and its impact on matters relating to the Public Accounts Committee's remit: Letter from the Auditor General for Wales (15 December 2020)

(Pages 5 – 10)

4b Natural Resources Wales: Letter from Clare Pillman, Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales (21 December 2020)

(Pages 11 – 12)

4c Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Summary of engagement with young people

(Pages 13 – 21)

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

(12.15)

Item 6

6 Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Consideration of evidence received

(12.15 – 12.30)

Document is Restricted

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To: Nick Ramsay MS
Chair
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The Senedd
Via email:
nick.ramsay@senedd.wales

Dai Lloyd MS
Chair
Health, Social Care and
Sport Committee
The Senedd
Via email:
dai.lloyd@senedd.wales

Reference: AC/237/caf
Date issued: 15 December 2020

Dear Nick and Dai

Procurement and supply of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic

I am writing to update you on work Audit Wales is carrying out looking at the procurement and supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There has been a good deal of interest in the issue of PPE since the outset of the pandemic. The Health, Social Care and Sport (HSCS) Committee commented on the supply of PPE in its July 2020 [report](#) on the impact and management of COVID-19 in health and social care. The Public Accounts Committee received evidence about PPE procurement, including domestic supply chains, in September 2020 as part of its inquiry into public procurement.

More recently, interest has been heightened by the publication of two reports by our colleagues in the National Audit Office. The first of these looked at [UK Government procurement](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic, which included a significant focus on procurement of PPE for health and social care in England. There was extensive media coverage of the NAO's findings in relation to a twin-track approach to identifying suppliers, a high-priority lane to assess and process potential PPE leads from government officials, ministers' offices, MPs and members of the House of Lords, senior NHS staff and other health professionals.

The second report looked more broadly at the supply of PPE in England, with extensive coverage of the large increase in the cost of PPE during the pandemic.

About our work

I thought it may be helpful to explain more about our work, which covers the same areas as the NAO: procurement and supply of PPE. We intend to build on the work of the HSCS Committee and to probe in more depth in some specific areas, notably procurement. We expect our work to have a forward-looking focus but based on a robust understanding of the lessons from the early phases of the pandemic.

Our scope takes in the procurement and supply of PPE for all public services. However, in practice, the primary focus will be the NHS and social care. Also, while recognising that there has been local procurement of PPE, this will not be a significant focus of our work. We will focus primarily on the national procurement, led by the Welsh Government and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (Shared Services).

We are currently in the fieldwork phase of the study. We have already interviewed several Welsh Government and Shared Services staff. We still have more interviews to carry out over the coming weeks. We have also gathered detailed documentary evidence.

In seeking evidence, we have also written to organisations that supplied evidence related to PPE as part of the HSCS Committee inquiry earlier this year. We have specifically asked for any new evidence or issues that they may wish to share with us.

Our fieldwork so far has focussed on the procurement of PPE. We still have a significant amount of work to do to complete our emerging picture on both procurement and supply. Our intention is to complete our fieldwork and issue our full findings in the spring.

Facts, figures and some emerging findings

In advance of our full report, I thought it would be helpful to share some facts and figures as well as some early emerging findings. I would emphasise that these are early findings and not set in stone. Nonetheless, given the high level of public interest and importance of these issues, I consider that there is merit in setting out the facts around some aspects of what we have found to inform any ongoing scrutiny.

At the start of the pandemic, the Welsh Government had a 'pandemic stockpile' of PPE, developed as part of UK wide arrangements, which it intended to distribute to health and social care bodies. The Welsh Government told us this equipment was crucial during the first wave. However, the stockpile was prepared for an influenza pandemic. Updated guidance on protecting NHS staff from coronavirus required some additional PPE, which was either not in the stockpile at all, or was not held in sufficient quantities to meet the extra demands posed by the

coronavirus. The Welsh Government, like other governments around the world, therefore needed to very quickly procure items such as fluid resistant gowns and respirators. Further, we understand that that some expected deliveries from existing suppliers did not materialise, exacerbating the pressure to quickly acquire more PPE.

The Welsh Government told us that it originally anticipated that there would be a UK-wide approach to PPE procurement. However, it agreed with the UK Government that, given the challenges, the Welsh Government would instead get funding via the Barnett formula and take on responsibility for procuring its own PPE. The Welsh Government told us it had continued to work with the UK Government and other devolved nations on procuring PPE, where opportunities have arisen.

The work to rapidly procure PPE for NHS Wales was led by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership and Welsh Government officials. Shared Services has taken on responsibility for providing PPE to services beyond the NHS, notably to social care and independent contractors in primary care.

Spend and distribution of PPE

As set out in our recent [NHS Wales Finances Data Tool](#), at the end of September 2020 the NHS had spent £130 million on PPE for Wales. This includes £17 million in local procurement by health boards and trusts on top of £113 million spent by Shared Services on PPE. The Shared Services total includes £37 million for supply of PPE to social care and primary care services, such as GPs, pharmacists and opticians.

Shared Services expects to spend £239 million on PPE for Wales by the end of March 2021, with social care and primary care accounting for 43% (£104 million) of this expenditure.

In addition to the spend on PPE for Wales, as of the end of September, the Welsh Government had spent £37 million on PPE on behalf of other parts of the UK. It expects to recoup this expenditure. We have not yet examined the financial arrangements in place with the other nations.

The NAO's report on the supply of PPE highlights the significant increases in the cost of PPE at the outset of the pandemic. Shared Services told us that for many items it was a 'seller's market' with governments globally competing for scarce supply. We will be looking in more depth at the relative costs of items before the pandemic and during the pandemic. Where appropriate to do so, we will try to make comparisons with the prices paid by other parts of the UK.

As at 29 November 2020, Shared Services has distributed just under 480 million items of PPE since 9 March 2020¹ with around 240 million of these being issued to the social care sector. The 480 million items include 90.5 million aprons, 120 million masks², 4 million face visors, 255 million gloves and 2 million gowns³.

The Welsh Government and Shared Services intended to build up a 24-week buffer stock of PPE by the end of November 2020. Shared Services told us that at the end of November the PPE buffer stock was largely in place. They were awaiting delivery of FFP3 Respirators made by a particular brand, which have been particularly difficult to source globally, and the receipt of orders that had been placed for gloves. We have visited the warehouse, where a proportion of the buffer stock is held. This visit reinforced to us the scale of the logistical operation. But we have not yet reviewed the modelling used to assess whether the buffer stock is sufficient for 24 weeks and we will do so as part of our fieldwork in the coming weeks.

Contracting approach

Under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and related guidance⁴ public bodies can enter contracts without competition or advertising so long as there are genuine reasons for extreme urgency. The Welsh Government, via Shared Services, has used these emergency exemptions for its procurement of PPE. Some details of contracts have been placed retrospectively on the Sell2Wales website. As part of our work we will be confirming that the correct contract notification procedures are being followed.

Shared Services has agreed contracts with around 100 different providers. However, many of these are for relatively low values. Around three-quarters of the suppliers have contracts valued at less than £1 million and around half are less than £150,000. Some 94% of the expenditure to the end of September 2020, including the expenditure on behalf of other parts of the UK, was with five suppliers.

While most of the PPE contracts are direct with suppliers, some of the larger contracts involve agents acting as intermediaries with overseas manufacturers. As

¹ Data source – [Stats Wales](#): Weekly number of PPE items issued by date. The reporting of PPE items issued is based on individual units, except for: gloves where a unit is reported based on the unit size of a pack and hand sanitiser where the unit is a bottle regardless of size.

² This figure includes: Type I and Type II mask, Type IIR masks, FFP2 masks, FFP3 masks.

³ This figure includes: Gowns (fluid resistant) and Gowns (other).

⁴ Regulation 32 and Procurement Policy Note 01/20: Responding to COVID-19 – March 2020

part of our fieldwork we are exploring further the use of agents and associated costs.

Although the bulk of PPE came from international suppliers, the Welsh Government and NHS worked with Welsh manufacturers to develop local supply chains. Welsh Government officials told us that this involved collaborative working within the Welsh Government, NHS and Industry Wales through the critical equipment requirements engineering team (CERET). We intend to explore this aspect of the procurement in more detail in the coming weeks.

Checks and approval arrangements

Shared Services and the Welsh Government told us that they have never had an equivalent to the twin-track 'high priority lane' approach to identifying potential suppliers described by the NAO in its report on COVID-19 procurement in England. In Wales, the Life Sciences Hub played a key role as a first point of contact for potential suppliers and manufacturers which, where appropriate, were referred to Shared Services. Shared Services told us that they also identified new suppliers through their existing networks, through suppliers getting in touch themselves and through other referrals. While there were referrals from politicians, Shared Services told us that these were subject to the same process, scrutiny and prioritisation as any other contacts. We are carrying out work to more fully understand how suppliers were identified and how referrals were managed.

The Welsh Government and Shared Services put in place revised governance arrangements around the letting of PPE contracts. All orders over £1 million in value already required the prior approval of the Welsh Government. In addition, a system of due diligence checks, scrutiny arrangements and a hierarchy of approvals were introduced involving the board of Velindre NHS Trust, which hosts Shared Services, and depending on the value and nature of the contract. Shared Services set up a new Finance Governance Group to support rapid decision making. This Group comprised senior managers from the NHS including specialists in areas like audit, fraud prevention, procurement, accountancy, and law.

The Welsh Government and Shared Services told us that the nature of the market during the pandemic meant that in some cases suppliers required an advance payment. To manage the risks, in a small number of instances, Shared Services made these payments through an independent escrow account. Shared Services and Welsh Government told us that this approach meant that the suppliers could see that the funding was in place but could not draw down the money until Shared Services had received the goods and checked that they met the required quality standards. All advance payments had to be approved by the Finance and Governance Group, with the Group referring advance payments more than 25% of a contract's value to Welsh Government for prior approval. We will be exploring in more detail how this system worked in practice as well as the work to check quality, which involved the Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory (SMTL) based in Bridgend.

The NHS Internal Audit service carried out a review of Financial Governance Arrangements during the COVID-19 Pandemic, with a focus on PPE, between March and August 2020. It found that the procedures around background checks, approvals and recording of decisions that the Welsh Government and NHS had put in place were complied with in all cases. It also noted that there were some improvements made to the financial governance arrangements and quality of documentation over the period. As part of our work we plan to test a sample of contracts. In doing so, we intend to place reliance on the work of Internal Audit in verifying compliance, while asking broader questions on value for money.

Next steps

Over the coming weeks, we intend to complete our work on procurement and then start to look in more depth at the issues around maintaining supply to the frontline staff. We will then start to form our conclusions, draft our report and go through our usual process of clearing it for factual accuracy with the Welsh Government and the other named parties.

In the meantime, if there is anything else we can do to help you and your committees on this matter please let me know.

Yours sincerely



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Nick Ramsay MS
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

By email:- SeneddPAC@senedd.wales

21 December 2020

Dear Nick

I hope that you and your colleagues are keeping safe and well.

[Our latest annual report](#)¹ has now been published so I thought it thought it would be useful to send it across to the committee, and provide an update on our Timber Sales Governance progress following the recommendations of the Grant Thornton review which we have discussed with you on a number of occasions.

The Timber Sales Governance project came to an end in June 2020 having been transitioning into Business as Usual since the start of December 2019. As you will be aware, NRW's Board instigated a number of checks to ensure continued robust oversight and due diligence against the objectives set as part of the project, and an Internal Audit progress review undertaken in June 2020 identified that further work was required to ensure that the improved ways of working were fully embedded.

We took immediate action to address this, including strengthening the team, providing additional training and maintaining Board scrutiny of this area of our work through our Audit and Risk Committee and an oversight group chaired by Sir David Henshaw. I am particularly pleased that Sarah Jennings, our new Executive Director of Communications, Customer and Commercial is leading this area at Executive Team level, and Rachael Cunningham, our new Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services will also provide a degree of independent assurance.

We continue to work closely with Welsh Government and the forestry sector. Our endeavours to support the industry and keep operations running safely and within Government guidelines during lockdown meant that production continued without interruption in 2020, unlike elsewhere in the UK. All timber processors are now back up

¹ <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/692608/annual-reports-and-accounts-2019-2020.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=132513842060000000>

and running, and we have been able to maintain our regular timber sales. In our 2020-21 Business Plan, which was revised and published in September, we were forecasting timber income of £29m. At the time of writing, we are on track to realise that forecast. The improvements in our relationships with the sector have been very evident during the Covid pandemic and we are determined that this will continue in 2021.

I hope that this will provide the Committee with assurance that NRW is progressively overcoming the challenges faced in recent years, and that we are on a steady course to creating a better future for Wales through the sustainable management of our environment and natural resources.

Best wishes



Clare Pillman
Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales

c.c. Sir David Henshaw, Chair, NRW
Lesley Griffiths MS, MEERA

Delivering for future generations: the story so far

Summary of engagement with young people

January 2021

As part of the inquiry into the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Public Accounts Committee sought the views of young people, given the nature of the Act and its relevance to future generations.

1. Engagement

In October 2020, the Chair wrote to over 70 educational institutions and youth groups to ask for their support to engage young people in the inquiry. Given the importance of the Act to young people, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and Wales' recovery from it, the Committee made every effort to hear from young people themselves. The Committee understood that due to the scale of the challenges faced by the education sector throughout the pandemic, that schools and youth groups might not have the capacity to engage.

The committee wanted to hear about young people's:

- awareness of the Act;
- experiences of how the Act has been implemented;
- views about what the barriers to implementing the Act are; and
- how it can be better implemented in future.

Resources were prepared to enable schools and youth groups to deliver an activity with their groups, gather young people's views and submit those views. These included:

[An activity resource pack](#); and

[A power Point presentation](#).

1.1. Promotion

The engagement resource was promoted extensively through a variety of channels, including the Senedd's website and social media platforms. Engaging content, such as a [blog](#) and [promotional video](#), catered for a variety of audiences. Focused social media advertisements enabled targeting of specific groups.

1.2. Respondents

A total of **14 young people**, aged 16 to 18, took part in the engagement. Participants came from two education providers: politics students from Crosskeys Campus, Coleg Gwent and Swansea 5 from Inspire Training.

2. Findings

Participants were asked to discuss and record what each of the 7 well-being goals meant to them and what barriers they believed will need to be overcome to achieve those goals.

2 of the 14 participants had heard of the Act and the Future Generations Commissioner, 12 had not.

2.1. A prosperous Wales

Participants felt that a prosperous Wales develops social mobility, good mental health services and a sustainable environment and economy.

Social mobility was depicted by participants as the opportunity to escape poverty through learning new skills; the ability to earn a fair wage and access to affordable housing, in towns and cities which no longer have '*rough areas*'.

"A prosperous Wales would have a stronger private sector. People need to be in good well-paying employment".

Participants identified good mental health as a marker of a prosperous Wales. Access to mental health services, a healthy balanced diet and school qualifications not based upon exams were put forward as ways to support a prosperous Wales.

"A healthy population is important for the prosperity of the country",

Participants saw a sustainable environment and economy as very important to a prosperous Wales. Sustainable forms of energy were seen as essential for the environment and the economy.

“Industries with a firmer hand to push forward a greener environment, there’s a chance to enhance skills and offer jobs”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a prosperous Wales would be a lack of environmental action and political strength, and brain drain.

In relation to environmental action, participants agreed that a lack of education and motivation could be barriers to remedying the environmental problems. The Welsh Baccalaureate was also deemed not to be the correct avenue to “address global issues”.

Participants also felt that businesses should take more environmental responsibility:

“There’s too much emphasis on the consumer to make changes for the environment when it usually costs more and is more time consuming when large businesses / factories etc. are still mass producing plastic or other damaging products”.

Political strength was also seen by participants as a potential barrier to achieving a prosperous Wales. A more ethnically diverse Welsh government was suggested as a remedy to this barrier. Some saw Wales as “small on a world stage” with the Welsh government not having enough powers to fully deliver a prosperous Wales:

“The UK government is suggesting that devolution was a mistake; they may remove powers within the next five years. Independence is rising in Wales but is still very low. The UK government is clawing back powers from Wales”.

Finally, participants suggested that a brain drain, whereby people from Wales seek professional opportunities in other countries, would be a barrier to achieving a prosperous Wales:

“If you want money go to England, we need good brains and able people”.

2.2. A resilient Wales

Participants felt that a resilient Wales prepares for the future with a strong economy.

Participants agreed that being prepared for the future was indicative of a resilient Wales, including preparedness for disasters and climate change. Participants felt that a strong economy was important for a resilient Wales and highlighted the possibilities of a green economy to produce 100% renewable energy.

“When the coal mines were closed down, the rate of poverty increased. We lost our traditional industries. We need a strong economy”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a resilient Wales would be political strength and societal attitudes.

Participants argued that the UK government holds too much power and is too involved in decisions made in Wales. Moreover, the short-term appointments of politicians and governments was highlighted as a barrier in taking forward long-term issues. Despondent attitudes within society was seen as a barrier not only to change but to political challenge:

“It’s the fault of the governing party if ultimately things aren’t right – so change the party for fresh ideas. It’s a dominant party, always using the same strategies, becoming complacent – they need to be challenged”.

2.3. A healthier Wales

Participants felt that a healthier Wales focuses on prevention as much as cure, prioritises mental health services and trains skilled practitioners.

Participants agreed that lowering the price of healthy foods would help focus on prevention as much as cure to create a healthier Wales.

“Access to healthy and nutritious meals – emphasised support to lower income families. Basic needs must be met! (Maslow’s hierarchy of needs)”.

Access to mental health services was identified as an element of a healthier Wales, including mental health support in schools and education about eating disorders.

“In a healthier Wales, support for mental health is easily accessible – A mental health specific GP surgery, purely for mental health, where you register like you would for a GP, should be available to everyone”.

Participants recognised that training practitioners and keeping professionals within Wales was an element of a healthier Wales.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a healthier Wales would be lifestyle choices, education and hospital closures.

Participants considered that people need to make better lifestyle choices and that reluctance to do so was a barrier to a healthier Wales. Participants felt that the cost of eating healthily and joining a gym exacerbated the issue.

“Unhealthy food is cheaper and gym membership can be expensive. It can also be expensive to travel to gyms”.

Discussions highlighted the closures of hospitals and accidents and emergency departments as a barrier, along with not enough focus on non-core subjects in schools.

“There’s too much focus on core subjects in school, more time is needed for arts, sports, cooking, life skills etc”.

2.4. A more equal Wales

Participants felt that a more equal Wales addresses poverty and discrimination, and has an accessible education system.

Participants agreed that a more equal Wales would have addressed poverty, fair distribution of resources and transport infrastructure.

“A lot of Wales is poor, more opportunities are needed and offered to those living in poverty, We need more of a balance – rich v poor”.

“Race, class and poverty need to not matter in terms of progression”.

Participants also highlighted that discrimination and racism played no part in a more equal Wales, and that diversity was important:

“More equal representation in parliament. We need more ethnic minorities!”

Finally, participants felt strongly that a more equal Wales would provide an accessible and affordable education system to everyone. Tuition fees and the opportunities offered by state compared to private education, was seen as matters hindering a more equal Wales..

“Tuition fees – get rid of them and make education more affordable. Reintroduce grants. Similar to a parent’s wage e.g. tax. Should be based on income”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a more equal Wales would be society’s attitude and the social divide.

Participants stressed that the media played a role in creating barriers to a more equal Wales through discrimination and by perpetuating class stereotypes. Participants felt that public perception, from those “not educated on modern matters of a forever changing society”, would be a significant barrier.

Participants saw a widening social divide as a significant barrier to a more equal Wales. This was illustrated with examples from the education sector:

“Standards and facilities within schools and colleges vary greatly resulting in poor and insufficient education with fewer opportunities in state schools”.

“There’s a postcode bias on state schools”.

2.5. A Wales of more cohesive communities

Participants felt that a Wales of more cohesive communities enjoys good housing and facilities, with strong local democracy.

Participants felt that there would be safe, adequate housing within communities with strict rules to ensure landlords provided fit for purpose housing. It was agreed that housing should be affordable and that people could work from home where possible.

“No one should be homeless”.

It was agreed that communities would have thriving community centres and transport links to ensure a more cohesive community and that support to learn conversational Welsh would be available.

“Everyone has the opportunity to learn Welsh. If they force it people won’t enjoy it. Maybe just conversational Welsh should be taught effectively”.

Finally, participants deemed local democracy as an important element of a Wales of cohesive communities. The idea that local people have a say in what gets built, events, services provided and local budget decisions was a strong theme.

“Communities should thrive on their own, looking after their local area. Communities need more going on to create bonds”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a more cohesive Wales would be nonprogressive town centres and poor employment opportunities.

Participants agreed that nonprogressive towns centres would be a barrier to more cohesive communities. A lack of funding and choice of shop, along with poor spaces for face to face contact were seen as the primary barriers faced.

“Parking charges in town centres, we need to rethink them totally because of internet shopping”.

Poor employment opportunities was also seen as a barrier to more cohesive communities, with a lack of work-life balance and the need to travel further for well-paying jobs being the examples given.

“Young people will have to travel to the city for high paying jobs, meaning moving away from their local communities due to poor transport and job opportunities”.

2.6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Participants felt that a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language combines culture and education, and is fully bilingual.

Participants felt that a thriving Wales would deliver a curriculum that taught young Welsh people about their history and culture.

In relation to the compulsory teaching of the Welsh language, many agreed that it should remain compulsory but taught for enjoyment and “not for the grades”.

“Compulsory Welsh language courses should not have so much pressure – they teach it and make it so stressful. Such as poetry. Make it more fun and conversational. And offer separate accreditations for different levels”.

Participants agreed that a bilingual society is positive for communities and is an important element of a thriving Wales.

“We should have full or majority bilingualism”.

“Culture is vital – language is part of our culture so should be celebrated but not forced upon us”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language would be attitude, poor uptake in adult Welsh language courses and a lack of creativity in schools.

Participants agreed that a significant barrier would be a dismissive attitude towards the Welsh language and our place within the world.

“We need to adopt a new attitude. Maybe because the language has been thrust upon us”.

“People feel that we have no impact on the world stage or not aware of it”.

It was agreed that uptake in adult Welsh language courses, possibly due to lack of time or opportunity, would be a barrier

“There are not many opportunities to learn Welsh when you finish school”.

Finally, participants agreed that not seeing creative skills and subjects as equally important to other subjects as a barrier in achieving a culturally vibrant Wales:

“Schools are too target driven. There’s no time for Eisteddfods or extra-curricular activities”.

2.7. A globally responsible Wales

Participants felt that a globally responsible Wales sources goods responsibly and is a progressive country on the world stage.

Participants felt that sourcing responsibly, ensuring that we do not have a negative impact on people and the environment, is essential for a globally responsible Wales.

“There should be a ban on products made in sweat shops and clothes should be affordable but responsibly sourced”.

Being a progressive country on the world stage was deemed to be possible and important in relation to a globally responsible Wales.

“In relation to climate change we could be carbon neutral. We are only a small country but we can inspire nations and countries e.g. charging for plastic bags”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a globally responsible Wales would be attitude and a lack of legislative power.

Participants agreed that major changes are needed in attitudes towards waste, sustainable living and renewable energy if Wales is to become globally responsible.

“People complain about wind farms. Wales should be covered in them, by using our coastline and countryside”.

Finally, a lack of legislative power to make decisions over water and renewable energy production for example were seen as a barrier to a globally responsible Wales.

“Taking climate policy into our own hands gives us more control, but we do not have enough powers, we are not independent”.