

Report of Health, Well-Being, Recreation and Tourism Officer

Subject: Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty [Revised for 2021].

Purpose of Report

1. Members are asked to note the revised 'National Parks Wales Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty'. The document can be found in Annex 1 to this report.

Introduction/Background

2. Landscapes for Everyone was first published in the spring of 2020 during the early stages of the covid-19 pandemic. The Socio-Economic Duty came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021. The Welsh National Parks recognised that they would need to be responsive and reflective of both the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the commencement of the Socio Economic Duty and it was planned that the paper would be revised in 2021.
3. The National Parks of Wales are 'Landscapes for Everyone'. They strive to connect people with the natural and cultural heritage of National Parks and through proactive engagement promote social inclusion, tackle social exclusion and reduce the negative impacts of poverty.
4. Landscapes for Everyone is a position statement with principles and priority areas to guide the efforts of the Welsh National Parks in delivering their core purposes and duty whilst meeting the requirements of 'Valued and Resilient' (the Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks July 2018). The revised 'Landscapes for Everyone' now also covers the policy and programme areas previously covered by the paper Welsh National Parks: Together for Health and Well-being (2016)ⁱ.
5. 'Landscapes for Everyone' sets out the challenges and defines the role of the National Park Authorities to help focus our work and have the greatest impact. To deliver 'Landscapes for Everyone' it will be essential to continue to enhance and develop collaborative working in and across all National Park Authorities and for ongoing engagement and collaboration with stakeholders and beneficiaries in both statutory and non-statutory services and settings.

Context

6. Social inclusion and tackling the negative impacts of poverty are identified by the Welsh Government as essential factors in improving the health, well-being and overall quality of life for people living in Wales and are all an integral part

of the Welsh Government's priorities linked to The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and supporting the well-being goal of an Equal Wales.

7. The Welsh Government has been undergoing a series of reviews focused on poverty.¹ In September 2020 the Welsh Government implemented the commencement of Part 1, Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 – the Socio-economic Duty. The duty requires specified public bodies including National Park Authorities, to consider how their decisions could help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage when they are making strategic decisions such as 'deciding priorities and setting objectives'.
8. On 13 October 2021 the Welsh Government published a report to support the implementation of the Socio-economic Duty.² This report provides a summary of key evidence relating to how socio-economic disadvantage affects the people of Wales and highlights the intersectionality that is key when examining socio-economic deprivation, and summarises the key inequalities of outcome that certain groups face. Going forward Welsh National Parks will also look to this report as it can be used as a source of evidence for policy development and support the Authority in implementing the Socio-economic Duty.
9. On April 2021 the Welsh Government published the responses to the consultation on the Draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.³ On 6 July 2021 the Counsel General announced the Welsh Government's plans to legislate for a Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill as part of the legislative programme. The Bill aims to strengthen social partnership arrangements in Wales and provide a framework to drive greater social equality for Welsh workers across the economy. This position statement demonstrates how National Park Authorities in Wales considers socio-economic impacts in their work, including issues relating to child poverty.
10. The Authority is in the process of reviewing it's Well-being Objectives following the agreement of new priorities for the Authority by the NPA in July⁴, focused on Conservation, Climate, Connection and Communities. As the Authority develops activities to deliver these priorities it is important that it considers how it continues to deliver positive outcomes in terms of health, well-being, poverty, equality and social inclusion across the priorities. For example the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner and Public Health Wales have recently released a report that highlights the need to consider opportunities to address inequality when looking at responses relating to climate change.⁵

¹ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-01/child-poverty-strategy-2019-progress-report.pdf>

² [Evidence review: socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome | GOV.WALES](#)

³ https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-07/summary-of-responses_0.pdf

⁴ [30_21-Strategy-Report.pdf \(pembrokeshirecoast.wales\)](#)

⁵ Welsh Government, Public Health Wales: Inequality in a Future Wales: Areas for action in work, climate and demographic change: [FGCW Equalities-Report E-UPDATED.pdf \(futuregenerations.wales\)](#)

Financial considerations

11. 'Landscapes for Everyone' will not come with any additional budgetary implications for this Authority. However, it should define how we maximise the use of existing resources (including financial resources) to deliver health and social inclusion work effectively. It can also assist in the preparation of funding bids.
12. At present much of the Authority's social inclusion and health focused work is project funded, for example the National Lottery People and Places Fund supports the Roots to Recovery Project. Project funding of this type is always time limited and there is a need to consider how this type of work might be continued in the future. Whilst there continues to be a range of external funding opportunities and partnership possibilities available to support this work, the Authority might wish to increase its core funding to ensure the long-term success of our health and social inclusion work.
13. As a supplement to this work, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has recruited a specialist to deliver a review and recommendations for 'Experiences for All'. Due to the pandemic this work was delayed, and the final report is now due at the end of 2021. This work is funded by Welsh Government.

Risk considerations

14. The anticipated Welsh Government Report on poverty originally due in Spring 2020 but as yet to be published may include further recommendations for National Park Authorities to help mitigate the negative impacts of poverty that have not been identified in Landscapes for Everyone. If this is the case then the document may require review to reflect. On 6th July 2021 the Counsel General announced the Welsh Government's plans to legislate for a Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill as part of the legislative programme for year one of this Senedd term this may have implications for National Park Authorities and impact on their work going forward.
15. As the Authority develops activities to deliver its new priorities it is important that it considers how it continues to deliver positive outcomes in terms of health, well-being, poverty, equality and social inclusion. The effective use of integrated assessments that include consideration of equality and socio economic impacts can assist with this and ensure compliance with relevant equality and socio economic duties.

Compliance

16. The document highlights and supports activities carried out by National Park Authorities to comply with their Public Sector Equality Duty, the Socio Economic Duty and the Well-being of Future Generations Act and delivery of Park Purposes.

Human Rights/Equality issues

17. The content of this Statement is derived from Plans such as the Management Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Equality Plan which themselves have been subject to rigorous assessment in relation to these issues. The document highlights and supports activities carried out by National Park Authorities to comply with their Public Sector Equality Duty, the Socio Economic Duty and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

18. 'Landscapes for Everyone' contains no activity that is likely to result in a negative impact on biodiversity in the National Park. Broadly speaking delivering 'Landscapes for Everyone' will result in an increased awareness of biodiversity in Pembrokeshire (amongst new audiences) and involve participants in positive actions which support biodiversity. The content of this Statement is derived from Plans such as the Management Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Equalities Plan which themselves have been subject to rigorous assessment in relation to these issues.

Welsh Language considerations

19. Any work developed by the Authority in accordance with 'Landscapes For Everyone' will be done in accordance with the Authority's commitment to the Welsh language.

Conclusion

20. 'Landscapes for Everyone' builds upon previous commitments from National Parks Wales on health, well-being, social inclusion and poverty. It provides a clear and concise approach and if agreed, will help guide all work across National Parks in Wales and provide the context needed to support actions as requested in 'Valued and Resilient'.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note 'National Parks Wales: Landscapes for Everyone' as set out in Annex 1 to this report.

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Background Documents

1. Valued and Resilient <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/areas-outstanding-natural-beauty-national-parks-2018-report%20.pdf>

2. Child Poverty <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-01/child-poverty-strategy-2019-progress-report.pdf>
3. Wellbeing of future Generations Action (Wales) 2015
<https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>
4. National Parks Wales – Health and Wellbeing Position Statement and Priority Actions 2018
https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/Files/files/Committee/Operational%20Review/2018%20March%207/02_18%20Health%20Wellbeing.pdf
5. [A More Equal Wales. The Socio-economic Duty, Equality Act 2010, Statutory Guidance: WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Appendix A

Welsh National Parks: Landscapes For All

Landscapes for Everyone

Position Statement And Priority Actions



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CENEDLAETHOL PARKS

National Parks Wales

For Health, Wellbeing And Social Inclusion



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Letter from the Chair

Responding to Change

When *Landscapes for Everyone* was first published in the spring of 2020 it was clear that the Covid-19 pandemic was going to have a deep and long lasting impact on the people of Wales and beyond. At the time the Welsh National Parks recognised that they would need to be responsive and reflective and made the decision to revise *Landscapes for Everyone* in 2021.

Over the past 18 months National Park Authorities have worked with key partners in many sectors including culture, education and heritage, health and social care, tourism and recreation, as well as with key industries in the local economies such as farming, tourism and recreation to help support their communities. New projects and ways of working have been embraced including digital opportunities to connect and share information. It has been a difficult time but in many ways these difficulties has also brought into sharper focus some of the challenges faced by communities living and working in our National Parks. The pandemic combined with factors such as the climate crisis, ongoing pressures on rural housing, and Wales' emerging economic relationships with the rest of the world since the United Kingdom left the European Union has given rise to new or more pressing challenges.

The 2018 Valued and Resilient statement from the Welsh Government highlighted the importance of Welsh National Parks to engage people in the natural and historic environment. The statement also recognised the contribution Welsh National Parks make to the rural economy and the impact National Parks can have on the health and quality of life of the people who live in and visit. The statement went on to say that *"while it is important for all sectors of society to experience these designated landscapes, particular focus should be given to children and young families from deprived areas. Action must be taken to help to tackle the inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes amongst the poorest in society. This work will include enhanced outdoor education programmes and volunteering opportunities."*

Although it is clear that challenging times will continue I believe that the National Parks of Wales have shown themselves to be responsive to the current circumstance and able to meet the needs highlighted in Valued and Resilient. Going forward Welsh National Parks can be active and significant partners in helping Wales' response to the social and economic landscape the people of Wales currently face. *Landscapes for Everyone* helps to illustrate all the hard work Welsh National Parks have been doing in a number of areas and shows the value of National Parks to the wellbeing of Wales.

Councillor Paul Harris

Chair of Welsh National Parks

October 2021



1. Executive Summary

Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone was first published in April 2020 just after the Covid-19 pandemic started. In the opening letter from the Chair, it was clear that the pandemic and the associated lockdowns and restrictions were going to have a significant impact upon society. In order to reflect the anticipated change a review of the document was scheduled for 2021.

Landscapes for Everyone not only is a revision of the original document but also includes the policy and programme areas previously covered by Welsh National Parks : Together for Health and Well-being (2016) .

This revised Landscapes for Everyone contains a position statement, principles and priority areas which guide the efforts of Welsh National Parks. Through their statutory responsibilities, activities, projects and collaborative partnerships, National Park Authorities work with other public bodies to respond to some of the challenges Wales faces to help it become a healthier, fairer and more equal nation for current and future generations. Landscapes for Everyone provides the policy context and position statement from which the three Welsh National Parks will be building programmes of work going forward.

With direction from the Valued and Resilient Position Statement, the Welsh National Parks will take action to help to tackle the inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes amongst the poorest in society. Work will enhance outdoor education programmes and volunteering opportunities and also have particular focus on children and young families from deprived areas.

In order to achieve this, Welsh National Parks will reach out beyond traditional audiences and engage a more diverse cross section of Welsh society so that they have a stake in the national landscapes and also have equity in the potential health and well-being benefits to be enjoyed from them. Landscapes for Everyone identifies the role of Welsh National Parks in addressing poverty and the wider determinants of health through the opportunities they provided as health assets and promoting social inclusion. Opportunities like social prescribing and understanding the work of Welsh National Parks through holistic approaches such as Five Ways to Wellbeing will help this work.



A number of cross cutting factors are outlined in *Landscapes for Everyone* that provide the context in which the work of the Welsh National Parks is to be delivered. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of nature to human health and wellbeing. The pandemic also shone a light on inequality as the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic was felt by the most vulnerable in society across the board, including housing, health and disability, age, education and also economically. Public Health Wales has identified the triple challenges of Brexit, climate change and Covid-19, that will impact upon the health and wellbeing of the nation.

Wales has some of the highest levels of child poverty and some of the poorest health in the United Kingdom, and it is anticipated that the ongoing impacts of the pandemic will continue for some years. The pandemic has increased pressure on rural housing stock two fold as people are seeking to move out of the cities into larger properties than can be found in rural areas such as Wales, and as the rise in staycations has meant that previous residential rental property has been turned to the holiday market. Welsh National Parks have a responsibility to advocate the principles of sustainable tourism and to ensure that the language, culture and communities are protected. Welsh National Parks can support community resilience through taking action with planning policy⁴.

As National Parks respond to the challenge of climate change and pursue decarbonisation activities, it is important to ensure that solutions take account of the needs of those on lower incomes or experiencing social disadvantage.



In delivering the vision of Landscapes for Everyone the work is guided by **three principles**:

- i to engage stakeholders,
- ii to demonstrate value
- iii to tailor opportunities.

Efforts will be focused in **three priority areas** and examples of projects and works to illustrate the priority areas are provided:

- i Living in the Park** - Working collaboratively with others to address affordable housing, transport and access to services
- ii Access and Opportunities** - Working collaboratively with partners to build capacity for partnership working and co-production, to help and enhance access to the outdoors, culture and heritage, opportunities for play, sustainable recreation, health and well-being.
- iii Learning and Work** - Promoting employment opportunities, education and skills development.

Welsh National Parks will draw upon the equality impact assessments or other integrated assessment to ensure that relevant decisions and strategic plans support the Equality Act in order to assess the impact of its work. Landscapes for Everyone will direct joint working programmes of Welsh National Parks , and will be key in guiding the work programmes of individual National Park Authorities, the reporting of which will be found in Corporate Plans, Management Plans and Local Development Plans.

2. Policy and Context



National Parks Statutory Purposes

Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage

Promote opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities.

In pursuing the above purposes the Authority has a duty to foster economic and social well-being.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015ⁱⁱ

To contribute through our Well-being Objectives to:



A prosperous Wales

A Wales of cohesive communities

A resilient Wales

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language

A healthier Wales

A globally responsible Wales

A more equal Wales

Act in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principles through the Five Ways of Working: Long Term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement.



Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio Economic Dutyⁱⁱⁱ

Public Sector Equality Duties including Welsh Specific Duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The Socio Economic Duty under the Equality Act 2010 came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021. This duty places a legal responsibility on public bodies when they are taking strategic decisions to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.



Child Poverty^{iv}

The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 legislation has been amended to take account of Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Duty to have a Child Poverty strategy is now discharged through relevant Public Services Boards well-being plans.



Wider determinants of health^v

The social, economic and environmental factors that impact upon health and well-being are the wider determinants of health. These factors drive differences, or inequalities, in health and well-being between groups of people. They include:

- *money and resources*
- *our level of education and skills*
- *availability of good, fair work*
- *the quality and security of our housing*
- *our surroundings*



Valued and Resilient Position Statement^{vii}

In the Valued and Resilient Position Statement the Welsh Government state that National Parks in Wales need to be “landscapes for everyone”

Reach out beyond traditional audiences

Engage a more diverse cross section of Welsh society so that they have a stake in the national landscapes

The statement notes “While it is important for all sectors of society to experience these designated landscapes, particular focus should be given to children and young families from deprived areas. Action must be taken to **help to tackle the inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes amongst the poorest in society**. This work will include enhanced outdoor education programmes and volunteering opportunities.”

Welsh National Park Authorities (and AONBs):

- should recognise the complex and multidimensional nature of social exclusion,
- seek to promote social inclusion in all AONB and National Park work
- seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities
- seek to reduce social exclusion in all its forms.



Economic factors

- **Changes to Universal Credit/Pensions**
- **Economic uncertainty resulting from leaving the EU**
- **Workforce pressures**



National Parks as Health and Well-being Assets:

- provide settings for activities promoting good health and well-being, including 'active' benefits such as walking and 'passive' benefits such as those derived from 'tranquillity' and inspirational scenery.
- can enable individuals and communities to maintain their health and well-being and mitigate against some of the negative impacts of poverty and inequality.
- support good human health through the pursuit of good quality environments essential for flourishing ecosystems supported by clean air and ground water, carbon storage, and land.



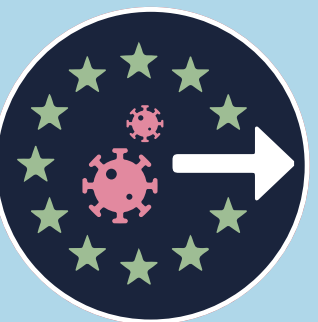
Poverty, Inequality and Intersectionality

Definition of poverty being 'when a person's material resources are well below their minimum needs and in addition, insufficient to enable social participation' Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Socio Economic Statutory Guidance (Welsh Government^{Viii}) notes that "Socio-economic disadvantage can be disproportionate in both communities of interest and communities of place, leading to further inequality of outcome, which can be further increased when considering intersectionality."

Inequality of outcome relates to any measurable difference in outcome between those who have experienced socio-economic disadvantage and those who have not. Examples of inequalities of outcome can include, lower levels of good health, lower paid work, and poorer educational attainment .

Intersectionality is a recognition that one single form of discrimination cannot and should not be understood in isolation from one another. This means forms of discrimination can interact and produce often multiple experiences and disadvantage in specific situations .



The Triple Challenge

The Triple Challenge of Brexit, Climate Change and Covid-19 has been identified by Public Health Wales as impacting disproportionately negatively impacting on a number of key groups including:

- those on low incomes,
- those with existing health conditions,
- those living in rural, coastal and tourist areas;
- the elderly, babies, young children and families
- those working in certain sectors including farmers, fishing, agriculture

All of whom are well represented in our National Parks or are identified as being key targets for our engagement ^{xiii xiv} .

3. Position Statement

The three National Parks in Wales deliver health and wellbeing benefits for the nation. We believe everyone should experience our National Parks. We seek to acknowledge, understand and challenge the barriers people face when visiting, enjoying and living in our National Parks. This includes opportunities for easy access to cultural and natural heritage. Guided by our primary purposes, National Parks can help build community cohesion, help reduce the negative impacts of poverty, social exclusion and poor health, and build a landscape for all and future generations. National Park Authorities will develop projects and services that deliver National Park purposes and our wellbeing objectives.



Welsh National Parks:

- Contribute to the intrinsic health benefits to be had from improved air quality, carbon storage and biodiversity
- Support good physical and mental health in our local and national communities by supporting or facilitating encounters with nature, landscapes and heritage
- Seek to acknowledge, understand and challenge the barriers people face when visiting, enjoying and living in our national parks
- Will develop projects and services that deliver National Park Purposes and our wellbeing objectives.

4. Cross Cutting Factors

Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and containment measures brought to the fore just how important having access to good quality outdoor space is for health and wellbeing^{xxv}. However the pandemic highlighted inequalities in terms of access to outdoor space in relation to housing – those with or without gardens, local infrastructure such as local parks, open access land, waterways, coast and footpaths, but also in terms of social and health inequality^{xvii xviii xix}. The ongoing impact of the pandemic is anticipated to last many years and National Parks along with Wales as a nation will need to ensure they plan and respond to this^{xx}. The economic recovery out of the Covid-19 pandemic can be a Green Recovery built on environmentally sound and responsible economics^{xxi}. There are also opportunities to engage with the new trade landscape that now exists after the UK left the EU.

Poverty, Health and Inequality in Wales

Wales has some of the highest levels of child poverty in the United Kingdom^{xxii}. Before Covid-19, almost a quarter of people in Wales were in poverty (700,000), and 3 in 10 children were living in poverty^{xxiii xxiv}. Rates of poverty, and child poverty in rural and coastal regions, have continued to grow and many of these areas are in or near by our National Parks^{xxv}. In addition, those in most need faced greatest hardship during the pandemic and were disproportionally impacted by job loss, debt and homelessness^{xxvi}.

Affordable housing is a challenge in all our National Parks. House prices rose during the pandemic exacerbating the existing affordable housing issues within National Parks. The availability of residential rental property fell and rental prices rose, impacting on those on lower incomes the most. Many properties were turned to the holiday market in a response to the rise of staycations during the pandemic restrictions^{xxviii}. Housing costs have a knock on effect on the sustainability of the Welsh language and culture within communities. In 2020 Wales became the only country in the UK to give local authorities the power to charge 100% council tax increase on second homes^{xxix}.



Living in poverty impacts on health and life expectancy. In the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas^{xxx}:

- Men spend approximately 19 fewer years in good health and die on average 9 years earlier.
- Women spend approximately 18 fewer years in good health and die on average 7 years earlier.

Those living in low income areas are more likely to be in poor quality housing, gain lower education attainment, eat poorer diets and have limited access to quality outdoor space^{xxxi xxxii}. People with certain protected characteristics including disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, age and gender also face worse health outcomes and are more likely to be in poverty^{xxxiii}.

Populations in rural Wales are older in profile than that of urban areas and are becoming more elderly. Although the impact of this demographic can put pressure on rural services, older populations play a central role in maintaining and developing community focused institutions and are a valuable source of knowledge, expertise and innovation^{xxxiv}.

Exploring and experiencing the potential and challenges presented by the natural world contributes to wellbeing and resilience^{xxxv}. For a range of complex reasons, increasingly we live in a society where children and young people in particular are not having experiences in nature and the outdoors. Some call this poverty of experience 'nature deficit disorder'^{xxxvi} a non-medical term that highlights the need for children to have experiences in nature for healthy development and wellbeing. Whilst many children and young people are impeded from playing in natural environments - this is particularly the case for some disabled children^{xxxvii}.



Climate Emergency

Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter^{xxxviii xxxix}.

The Welsh Government have committed to the transition towards a Net Zero Wales by 2050, and that this must be “fair and just, a green and clean future which means good quality jobs and leaves no communities behind^{xxxvii}”. The climate emergency has a disproportional impact on those living in poverty and social disadvantage, with the poorest in society most likely to be impacted by it and also having the least power to change or adapt their circumstance. Wales’ extreme weather events such as flooding is recognised as causing a great deal of hardships and impact upon health and well-being^{xxxix}.

As we respond to the challenge of climate change and pursue decarbonisation activities, it is important to ensure that solutions take account of the needs of those on lower- incomes or experiencing social disadvantage.

Heritage, Culture and Inclusion

We have an important part to play in protecting and growing the Welsh language through active policies and engagement with communities. We need to acknowledge their relationship and legacy relating to Wales’ involvement in the British colonial past^{xlii}. It is important that we reflect the diversity of history and heritage held within the built and natural heritage in its engagement with local communities and visitors. Sustainable tourism helps to protect the living culture and heritage within local communities^{xliii xliv}. We must have policies and projects in place to support communities including those relating to housing or employment that can help ensure our communities are vibrant and resilient in responding to social and economic change^{xlv xlvi}.

5. Our Principles



Principles that guide our activities to support social inclusion and help improve health and well-being, and reduce inequality and child poverty:

Engage stakeholders with inclusive opportunities available within National Parks that promote social inclusion, engage opportunities for health and wellbeing and alleviate the negative impacts of poverty. Engagement and action works best in collaborative partnerships that draw upon the skills, knowledge and lived experiences of all our communities and partners.



Demonstrate the value of National Parks for health and well-being and their role to help reduce social exclusion and alleviation of the barriers posed by poverty by contributing towards evidence-based policy and practice.



Tailor opportunities for all people in Wales to benefit from the natural environment and landscape features of National Parks. Engage people with their natural and cultural environments without compromising the Special Qualities and landscape of National Parks for future generations.

6. Priority Areas

We have identified **3 priority areas** on where we will focus our efforts on in order to ensure our National Parks are Landscapes for Everyone and able to deliver our commitments to social inclusion and health and wellbeing.

Priority Area

Living in the Park

Working collaboratively with others to address affordable housing, transport and access to services

Key Points

Housing

- Housing cost are high in National Parks including the cost of purchase and rental impacts on those on lower income.
- Housing costs have a knock on effect on the sustainability of the economy, Welsh language and culture within communities.
- It is vital to build community resilience through taking actions with planning policy and affordable housing.

Transport and Access to Services

- Transport related issues are often highlighted by communities living in our National Parks during engagement activities
- Access to services and affordable and accessible transport options can be a particular challenge for younger people and those on low incomes living within rural areas like National Parks.
- Improving transport links with green and active travel can lower carbon emissions and improve physical activity levels for our populations.
- National Parks need to engage with key partners to help develop an infrastructure that affords a digitally inclusive Wales to support education, jobs and active citizenship



Examples

Decarbonisation Projects

Brecon Beacons

- The Sustainable Development Fund aims to support projects which take into account economic, environmental, community and cultural issues, improving the quality of life for communities in the National Park. It can fund up to 50% of projects, which have the support and involvement of communities within the Park.
- Developing a decarbonisation programme to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and support community decarbonisation initiatives. The programme includes carbon literacy events with communities and schools and promotion of green technologies.

<https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/communities/sustainability-2/subsustainable-development-fund/sustainable-development-fund-annual-report/>



Housing

Pembrokeshire Coast

- Wales and West Housing and Ateb have been working with the authority and two local communities around the Park to provide modern, energy-efficient new homes to meet housing needs for local people in some of the most expensive housing areas within the county. In total 4 new housing sites have been delivered and a further one due by the end of 2021. These homes comprise of a mix of family homes, one-bed bungalows and adapted bungalows for people over 55.

[Coast to Coast \(pagesuite-professional.co.uk\)](http://Coast to Coast (pagesuite-professional.co.uk))



Transport

Eryri

- Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa / the Snowdon Partnership is leading an ambitious and sustainable approach to parking and transport in northern Snowdonia. A central part of the work is that communities and businesses help design the way in which the strategy is delivered on the ground. This will ensure a reliable, low carbon option for residents to enable employment opportunities and allow better access to services and facilities in and around this rural area.



Priority Area

Access and Opportunities

Working collaboratively with partners to build capacity for partnership working and co-production, to help and enhance access to the outdoors, culture and heritage, opportunities for play, sustainable recreation, health and well-being^{xlv}.



Key/focus Points

- Draw upon the Five Ways to Wellbeing Model, to engage opportunities in social prescribing and self care.
- Enhancing access to the outdoors and nature is important for social inclusion and for overall health and wellbeing .
- Working with communities to help build connection and understanding of the special qualities of National Parks including that relating to culture and heritage, is important for individuals and society.
- Supporting children and young people's access to the outdoors so that they can build lifelong enjoyment of the outdoors is important^{xlvi}.



Examples

West Wales Walking For Wellbeing

Pembrokeshire Coast

West Wales Walking for Wellbeing - a cross sector partnership project active across the Hywel Dda Health board area. Delivering a 'wellbeing walk' programme with community settings including GP practices and with volunteer support. Providing physical activity for less active individuals. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is the project lead.

www.westwaleswalkingforwellbeing.org.uk/



Beach Wheelchairs

Pembrokeshire Coast

Beach wheelchairs enable people to access beaches in Pembrokeshire many of whom may not have accessed the beach for many years.

www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/things-to-do/access-for-all/beach-wheelchairs/

With English subtitles To see the beach wheelchair segment skip to 9 mins 50 seconds.

<https://www.s4c.cymru/clic/programme/837024463>



Small Steps – Mental Health

Brecon Beacons

Small Steps was a 2 year Welsh Government funded, action research partnership project by BBNPA and Powys Teaching Health Board Psychology Service. National Park residents with long term mental health conditions, were invited to take part in a range of activities in the National Park. The health and wellbeing benefits were measured.

Link to poster presentation. Poster 2

<https://ruralhealthandcare.wales/rural-health-care-wales-conference-2020-poster-competition/>



Examples

Geotrails apps

Brecon Beacons

Funded by Atlantic Geoparks, the new Geotours app features walks in the Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark. They are aimed at families with older children and give an introduction to the Geopark and the landscape on the tour. Each walk takes about 2-3 hours. More are planned for the future.

Download the Geotours app from Google Play or the App store



Social prescribing

Snowdonia

A pilot Social Prescribing scheme has been established in partnership with Public Health Wales. Wellbeing Wednesdays has included sessions of Yoga, Guided Walks, Lake Swimming and Beach Clearance. The Social Prescribing and Green Health strategy will be launched by PHW in October 2021, which will allow all relevant providers to log activities in a shared register for GPs to access across North Wales.



Tramper – mobility

Snowdonia

Working in partnership with local businesses Trampers are offered for hire in different areas of the National Park. The Tramper is a specially designed, all-terrain mobility scooter, which can be used off road and even on rough ground, mud and grass. It is very robust, with light, accurate steering and tailored suspension, making it easy to handle and comfortable to ride on. It enables people who have a mobility impairment to experience the countryside; and to accompany friends and family when out walking.



Priority Area

Learning and Work

Learning and work - Promoting employment opportunities, education and skills development



Key Points

Support **Green Recovery** activities to include jobs in:

- Heritage skills
- Sustainable tourism opportunities,
- Micro businesses and rural entrepreneurs
- Digital inclusion
- Ensure that opportunities through Green Recovery are targeted to engage diverse groups communities and places.
- Provide opportunities for communities and businesses to understand the special qualities of National Parks
- Engage programmes of work that help National Park Authorities to help restore and protect the special qualities of National Parks.



Examples

Welsh National Parks

National Parks are promoting outdoor learning as an important part of the new Curriculum for Wales, through involvement in Wales Council for Outdoor Learning and in their local work with schools and educators. Outdoor learning has a critical role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of pupils in Wales

[Outdoor Learning | Wales Council For Outdoor Learning](#)



Princes Trust

Brecon Beacons

In partnership with The Prince Trust Cymru delivered a 3 year project for NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people. The programme supported 55 young people to develop practical rural skills and to achieve accredited land based qualifications. 26 went on to a 3 month placement with the Park Authority. Funded by Arwain (LDP LEADER) and the BBNPA Sustainable Development Fund.

<https://www.arwain.wales/en.html>



On-line ambassadors

Snowdonia

The *Llysgennad Eryri Ambassador* programme has been developed for the local tourism industry, but offers high quality training to anyone who wishes to learn more about what makes Eryri exceptional through an on-line training programme. The programme includes 12 modules that reflect the Park's special qualities, which vary from original work to factual content, much of which has been contributed by local experts across the region.



Caru Eryri

Snowdonia

This volunteer programme was developed in Partnership with the Snowdonia Society, the National Trust and the Outdoor Partnership to support the work of SNPA Wardens. Every volunteer received a full induction and training, risk assessments, PPE, and Covid-safety protocols which were regularly updated. For those keen to take on more responsibility a free professional Outdoor First Aid course was available. The scheme will be developed to remain a permanent offer by all Partners.



Black Mountains College

Brecon Beacons

The BBNPA's Sustainable Development Fund supported the Black Mountains College to establish further education provision in the National Park and to deliver courses on sustainability and the environment, including traditional skills for use in the landscape. Young people, locals and others will benefit from skills development and potential job opportunities.

<https://blackmountainscollege.uk/>



Kickstarter jobs

Wales National Parks

Under the UK Government's Kickstart scheme in partnership with other UK National Park Authorities, the National Park Authorities in Wales are delivering a number of new 6 month job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.

Brecon Beacons offered 6 placements including IT support, Youth Ambassador, Communications Support, retail and 2 estate workers.

Pembrokeshire Coast offered 5 placements including Business Support/Admin, Archaeology Assistant, 2 Assistant Warden/Visitor Services, and Development Management Admin Assistant

Snowdonia offered 3 placements including Digital Media Assistant, Estate Worker and Forestry Assistant.



7. Assessing Impact

Equality Act

The Welsh National Parks must consider the impact of strategic decisions on:

- People experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage (socio-economic duty)
- people with protected characteristics (Public sector Equality duty and Welsh specific duties).

All National Park Authorities will undertake equality impact assessments/integrated assessments on relevant decisions and strategic plans to ensure due regard is given to equality and socio-economic impacts during decision making processes.

Landscapes for Everyone will direct joint working programmes of Welsh National Parks, and will be key in guiding the work programmes of individual National Park Authorities, the reporting of which will be found in Corporate Plans, Management Plans and Local Development Plans.



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