

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales Programme

Briefing: March 2024







Background

The wider determinants of health are the social, environmental and economic factors that affect health and well-being. For lasting positive change, we need to understand and respond to the complex systems influencing these factors and our health.

In partnership with Executive Directors of Public Health across Wales and their teams, Public Health Wales has been successful in securing three years' funding from the Health Foundation Shaping Places grant funding programme. Shaping Places focuses on local governments and local partners taking system-wide action on the wider determinants of health and programmes have already been established in [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

How will the programme support Public Services Boards?

The programme will provide a national resource to support Public Services Boards (PSB) in taking a theory and evidence informed systems approach in their work to influence wider determinants of health as they implement their well-being plans, sharing learning between PSB and across the UK.

A systems-based approach can help Public Services Board to deliver their Well-being Plan objectives by:					
					
Looking at the big picture including system goals	Considering relationships between factors in a system	Identifying where changes in a system can have the biggest positive impact	Identifying partners' roles in changing the system	Looking at intended and unintended consequences of action taken in the system	Supporting monitoring and evaluation

How will this be achieved?

The programme will establish three national learning cohorts which will be open to all PSB in Wales. The set-up phase will include agreeing three themes which have commonality across well-being plans. Learning cohorts will be guided through a flexible system framework by a facilitator with expertise in the application of systems thinking. Shared learning across Wales will be integrated into local PSB work to inform the delivery well-being plans. After the two-year delivery phase of the programme, legacy plans will be developed with PSB to ensure the learning is sustained.

How was the programme designed?

The programme has been co-produced with representatives from PSBs, Welsh Government, Future Generations Commissioner's Office and Local Health Board Public Health Teams. It was developed through a Health Foundation funded design phase which involved:

- Commissioning systems experts to support the development of the full proposal
- A series of workshops to understand how systems-based approaches can support the delivery of well-being plan objectives
- A rapid review of the evidence on the application of systems-based approaches in public health
- Producing case studies demonstrating the use of systems-based approaches within local authority partnerships in the UK

Through the design phase we learnt:

- Having engaged leadership, time to build trusted relations and a clear narrative on system-based approaches will be essential.
- There is an appetite for increasing understanding of complex adaptive systems and approaches to influence wider determinants of health in delivery of well-being plans
- Aspects of systems-based approaches are already underway across Wales (e.g. whole system approach to healthy weight) which can be built on
- There is a strong appetite for sharing learning across PSB in Wales
- A flexible approach is needed to meet the needs of different PSB depending on their ways of working and Well-being Plan objectives
- There is a desire for members and support staff from different PSB to come together to develop system thinking capability, share experiences of applying methods and work on common challenges.

How can my Public Services Board get involved?

We will invite PSB to express their interest in participating in the programme during the set-up phase, in early 2024. PSB officers and member will be recruited into the learning cohort. It is anticipated that the cohorts will commence in June 2024.

For further information on this work please contact the Director of Public Health in your area or the Wider Determinants of Health Unit Team: PHW.Determinants@wales.nhs.uk



This project is part of the Health Foundation's Shaping Places programme. The Health Foundation is an independent charitable organisation working to build a healthier UK.