



# IHCC PROGRESS REPORT

2015-2017



Working towards a globally responsible,  
resilient and prosperous NHS in Wales

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# About this report

This report is addressed to the key stakeholders and all national and international partners of the International Health Coordination Centre (IHCC). It outlines the IHCC progress in driving and enabling implementation of the Charter for International Health Partnerships in Wales over the last two years. The report also highlights the IHCC plans and aspirations for the future, supporting a globally responsible, more resilient and prosperous NHS in Wales.

The IHCC role, achievements, ways of working, collaborative structures and activities are described. The report also outlines the evolution of the IHCC in relation to global, UK, national and local developments, including present and future challenges and opportunities. It demonstrates the communication tools we use to enable shared learning, facilitate cross-NHS and cross-sector synergies, and maximise benefits to the health and well-being of the people in Wales and beyond.

## **The report consists of four overarching sections:**

- I.** The IHCC: supporting the NHS, networking and evolving in a changing context (providing a brief introduction and context)
- II.** Where we started: benchmarking Charter implementation (highlighting initial existing practices and preparedness of the Welsh Health Boards and NHS Trusts)
- III.** Where we are: accelerating Charter implementation (showcasing the IHCC achievements and examples of good practice from the Health Boards and NHS Trusts over the last two years)
- IV.** Where we are going: the opportunities ahead (outlining the IHCC future plans and aspirations)

It also features an Executive Summary infographic at the beginning, and a Conclusion and Appendix at the end.



# Executive summary



## Role

The IHCC is a whole of Wales NHS platform for information sharing, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and networking.

## Achievements 2015-2017

Benchmarking the implementation of the Charter for International Health Partnerships in Wales	Strengthening the role of the Charter Implementation Group	Building and strengthening partnerships with health organisations around the world	Facilitating international collaboration and income generation across the NHS
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## Future Direction

Developing an all-Wales implementation toolkit for the Charter	Evaluating progress made towards Charter implementation	Promoting and enabling Global Citizenship training across NHS Wales and beyond
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## Supporting the Charter Principles

**01 Organisational Responsibilities (OR)**

**02 Reciprocal Partnership Working (RW)**

**03 Good Practice (GP)**

**04 Sound Governance (SG)**

# The IHCC: supporting the NHS, networking and evolving in a changing context

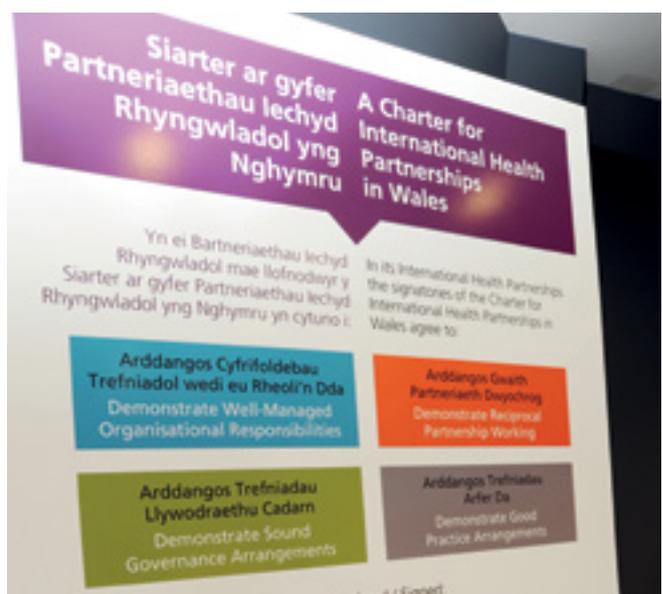
## A unique platform supporting NHS international engagement

The IHCC is a whole of NHS Wales programme of work, established in 2013 following recommendations set out by the **Welsh Government policy document 'Health Within and Beyond Welsh Borders: an Enabling Framework for International Health Engagement'** (Welsh Government, 2012). It serves as a focal point for information sharing, knowledge exchange, collaboration and networking for NHS Wales across the UK, Europe and the world. It promotes, facilitates, and enables international partnerships, capability and capacity building, and good governance. Through these operations, the IHCC aims to maximise potential gains for Wales, to reduce duplication of efforts and resources, and to support a health system which is globally responsible, as well as more equal, resilient, and prosperous.

The IHCC sits between government, the health system and other relevant sectors. From this distinct position, it works to support forward-looking international networking and collaboration, good governance, system insight, and contribution to global health and sustainable development. Its work is enabled by the International Health Division, Policy, Research and International Development Directorate, Public Health Wales, in collaboration with the Welsh Health Boards and NHS Trusts.

In partnership with national and international stakeholders, the IHCC has developed the **Charter for International Health Partnerships in Wales** (the Charter) (IHCC, 2014). The Charter sets out common values and principles for international work across the NHS. In 2014, all Health Boards and NHS Trusts pledged to implement the Charter, committing to improve organisational responsibility, reciprocal partnership working, good practice, and sound governance in international health partnerships.

The IHCC and the unique pan-NHS Wales pledge to the Charter principles has since received attention from across the UK, Europe and beyond. Wales is gaining an international reputation for the strength and achievements of our health partnerships across the globe. The IHCC is committed to furthering this reputation, benefiting both Wales and our international partners.



The work of the IHCC is aligned with and supports the implementation of the **Public Health Wales International Health Strategy** (Public Health Wales, 2017), built around three strategic priorities and six strategic objectives (see Box 1 in Appendix). It upholds the **Prudent Healthcare principles** of reducing inappropriate variation through evidence-based approaches; caring for those with the greatest health need first; doing only what is needed, no more, no less and

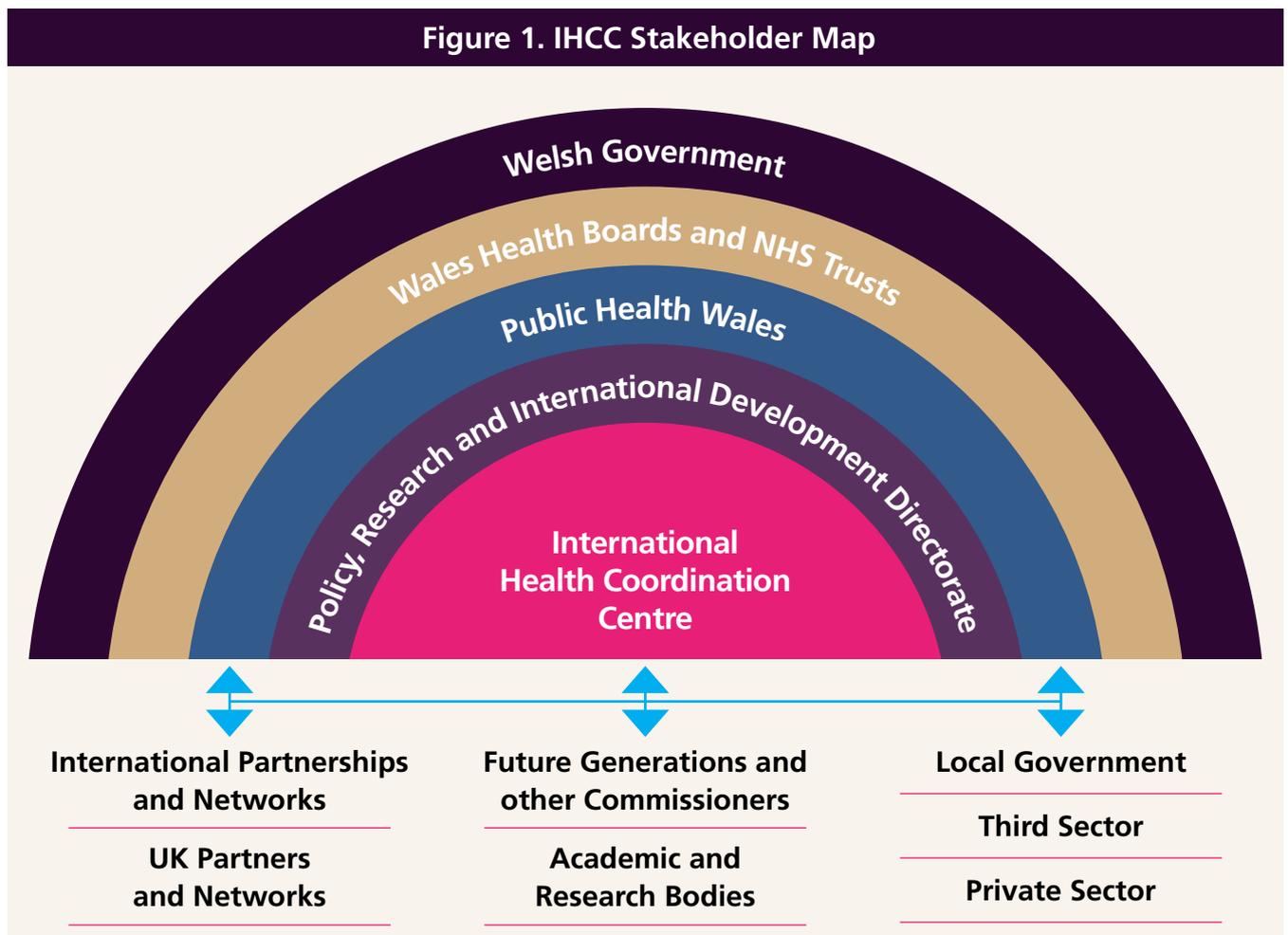
do no harm; and rebalancing the relationship between patients and professionals through co-production (Welsh Government, 2015a).

**Sound governance** is essential for the successful implementation of the Charter and the International Health Strategy. We have developed a governance framework, including a Strategic Advisory Group, and a Public Health Wales International Health Group, as well as the NHS Charter Implementation Group (CIG) (see Box 2 in Appendix).

## Creating a virtual network of global citizens

The IHCC brings together **all Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales** (see Box 3 in Appendix). We have successfully established a **strong network of key stakeholders** across Wales, linking with international partners (Figure 1). We engage collaboratively within and beyond Welsh borders, actively seeking input and feedback on our programmes and policies. We are proud of the strong working relationships that we continue to foster in this space (see Box 4 in Appendix). To achieve this the IHCC uses a **variety of media tools**, as detailed in Box 1.

Figure 1. IHCC Stakeholder Map



## Box 1. Media tools used by IHCC



### Website

The IHCC has launched a new website: [www.internationalhealth.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.internationalhealth.wales.nhs.uk) in March 2017. Visitors can find information on our national and international work, including useful resources, news, and events.



### International Health E-bulletin

The IHCC produces a bi-monthly e-bulletin, providing updates on international health activity of relevance to Wales. It highlights policies, opportunities, and news; and showcases Welsh work taking place internationally. To view previous versions of the e-bulletins and subscribe to the mailing list, visit the 'Get Involved' section of the IHCC website.

### Welsh International Health Partnership Database

The database provides an overview of international health work taking place across Wales. It has been initially informed by a mapping exercise which took place across Welsh Health Boards and NHS Trusts in 2013. The report, 'Mapping of International Health Activity across Wales' (IHCC, 2013) can be found in the 'Resources' section of the IHCC website.

To submit a project, visit the IHCC website or e-mail:

[international.health@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:international.health@wales.nhs.uk)

### IHCC Publications

- Global Citizenship for Welsh Health Professionals: Training Evaluation Report (IHCC, 2017a)
- European Funding For Health in Wales: Part 1 and Part 2 (IHCC, 2016b; IHCC, 2016c)
- NHS Wales Staff Perception of Global Citizenship: Scoping Report (IHCC, 2015b)

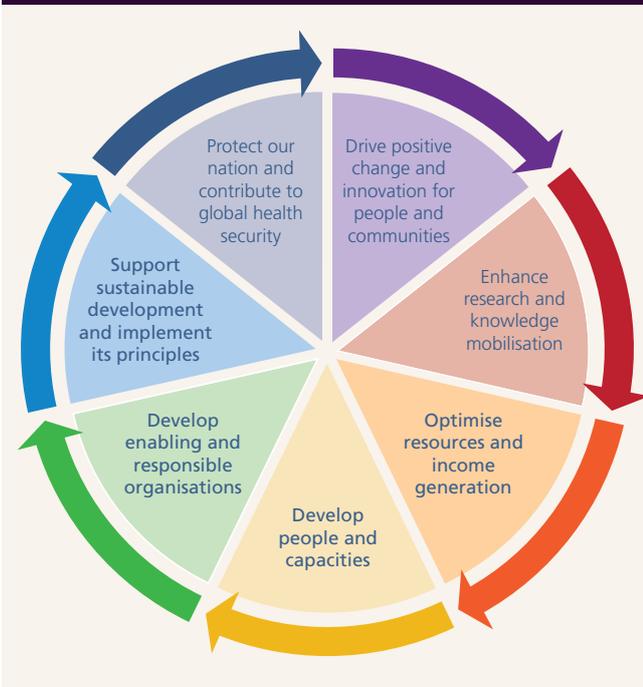


# Evolving in a changing context

The IHCC programme of work has been aligned with and responsive to the dynamic global health and sustainable development challenges and opportunities. Enhancing partnerships, sustaining international links and facilitating applied learning to improve health and well-being in Wales and around the world brings many benefits to people, communities, organisations and the health system (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Benefits of International and Global Health Work**



Social, environmental, and economic imbalances have created many public health problems, and have undermined equity and well-being (World Bank, 2016). In recent decades, globalisation has brought about worldwide transformation of unprecedented scale, scope, and complexity. This is having both direct and indirect impacts on individual and population health. For example, increasing rates of antimicrobial resistance are challenging health systems worldwide. Changing diets and economic shifts are affecting the rates of non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, obesity and cancer.



The rapid advancement of science and technology or ‘the Fourth Industrial Revolution’ (World Economic Forum, 2016) is posing new challenges and opportunities. These require an integrated and comprehensive response involving stakeholders from across the world, from the public and private sectors to academia and civil society. The United Nations (UN) have adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (UN, 2015) to enable countries to respond to these challenges in a more coherent and effective way and to ensure peace, security, equity, and prosperity for all.

A key factor shaping the IHCC work and Welsh participation in the global agenda is the **'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act'** (WFGA) (Welsh Government, 2015b).

This ground-breaking piece of legislation

has translated the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** (see Box 5 in Appendix) to the Welsh context. The WFGA identifies seven well-being goals (see Box 6 in Appendix) and introduces a statutory requirement for all public bodies in Wales to take action in pursuit of the

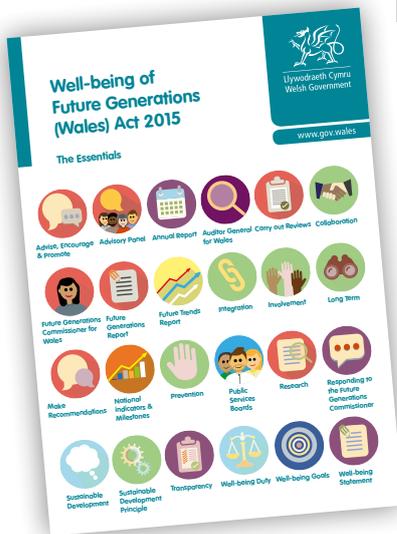
**Sustainable Development Principle (five ways of working)**. The Act aims to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of the Welsh population by ensuring that public sector organisations apply the five ways of working: involvement, collaboration, integration, prevention, and long-term.

Implementing the Charter is synergetic with the WFGA (Figure 3) and can ensure we meet

the well-being goals of 'a globally responsible Wales'; 'a healthier Wales'; and 'a more equal Wales'. Linking the WFGA and the Charter implementation benefits the Health Boards and NHS Trusts by highlighting clear working area synergies and recognising on-going joint activities and future opportunities. Building on these will help embed the Sustainable Development Principle across the NHS and support reporting against the WFGA national indicators, as well as implement the SDGs.

The WFGA and Charter also contribute to implementation of the **World Health Organization (WHO) European Health 2020 Strategy and Policy Framework** (WHO, 2013) and match with the **Welsh Government's 'Prosperity for All' strategy**. This strategy reaffirms Wales' intention to remain an "outward-looking and fully engaged" European and international actor (Welsh Government, 2017).

It is important to note that the impact of the UK departure from the European Union (Brexit) is not yet fully understood, but it will impact how Wales interacts with European and international partners. Welsh health actors, including the IHCC, will continue to monitor these impacts in the short and long-term.



**Figure 3. The Charter principles mapped with the WFGA's five ways of working**

Charter Principles	Five Ways of Working	Synergies between the Charter and the WFGA
<p><b>01 Organisational Responsibilities (OR)</b>            Strong organisational engagement and commitment are essential. This may include support for special leave, provision of resources to support the development of health partnerships and organisational processes reporting at an executive level on International Health Partnerships.</p>	 <b>Long term</b>  <b>Involvement</b>	<p>By balancing short and long-term organisational needs and priorities; and supporting the successful delivery of the WFGA, through cross-sector and public involvement, the Charter supports the development of 'globally responsible', 'more equal' and 'resilient' organisations.</p>
<p><b>02 Reciprocal Partnership Working (RW)</b>            It is essential to have a collaborative relationship between two or more parties based on trust, equality, joint respect and understanding for the achievement of specified goals for mutual benefit.</p>	 <b>Collaboration</b>  <b>Involvement</b>	<p>Taking a multi-stakeholder approach and involving effectively our staff, partners and communities assists in the delivery of a 'more equal', 'resilient' and 'prosperous' Wales, improving health within and beyond Welsh borders.</p>
<p><b>03 Good Practice (GP)</b>            An evidence-based approach searching out positive results that should be celebrated, and an open culture willing to learn from when things go wrong is essential.</p>	 <b>Prevention</b>  <b>Long term</b>	<p>Following good practice and a preventative approach helps to safeguard and improve health in Wales in the short and long-term, creating a more sustainable and globally responsible nation.</p>
<p><b>04 Sound Governance (SG)</b>            Clearly agreed aims, objectives and areas of responsibility for all partners involved in the partnerships are essential.</p>	 <b>Integration</b>  <b>Collaboration</b>	<p>Integrating sound governance into organisational structures and processes ensures safe and successful long-term collaboration where all stakeholders contribute to a 'globally responsible', 'healthier' and 'more equal' Wales.</p>

# Where we started: benchmarking Charter implementation

In 2015, the IHCC recognised the need to formally assess the initial status and early progress of the Charter implementation across all Health Boards and NHS Trusts. We conducted a benchmarking exercise with **three objectives**:

- to assess Welsh Health Boards' and NHS Trusts' **current progress** towards Charter implementation
- to investigate the **factors** affecting Charter implementation
- to develop an **implementation framework** to ensure better coherence, structure and sustainability of the implementation process.

This was achieved through an initial systematic review and synthesis of literature, followed by a benchmarking questionnaire and semi-structured interviews which further explored the implementation enablers and barriers.

The benchmarking exercise found that the Charter was well received and highly supported at the Executive level across the NHS. Health Boards and NHS Trusts identified clear links between the WFGA and the Charter, as well as how this legislation provides support for international engagement. The benchmarking reviewed the early stages of the implementation process and identified a number of common issues that could be better addressed through a more coordinated approach. *For example*, a need was identified to develop a process of recognition of overseas engagement as a contribution to Continuing Professional Development. Also, a need to explore risk and organisational responsibility in terms of insurance cover for staff travelling under the name of the Health Board or Trust.

The work identified **four broad implementation phases** (Figure 4):

1. Understand the context

2. Create the right implementation climate

3. Support further implementation

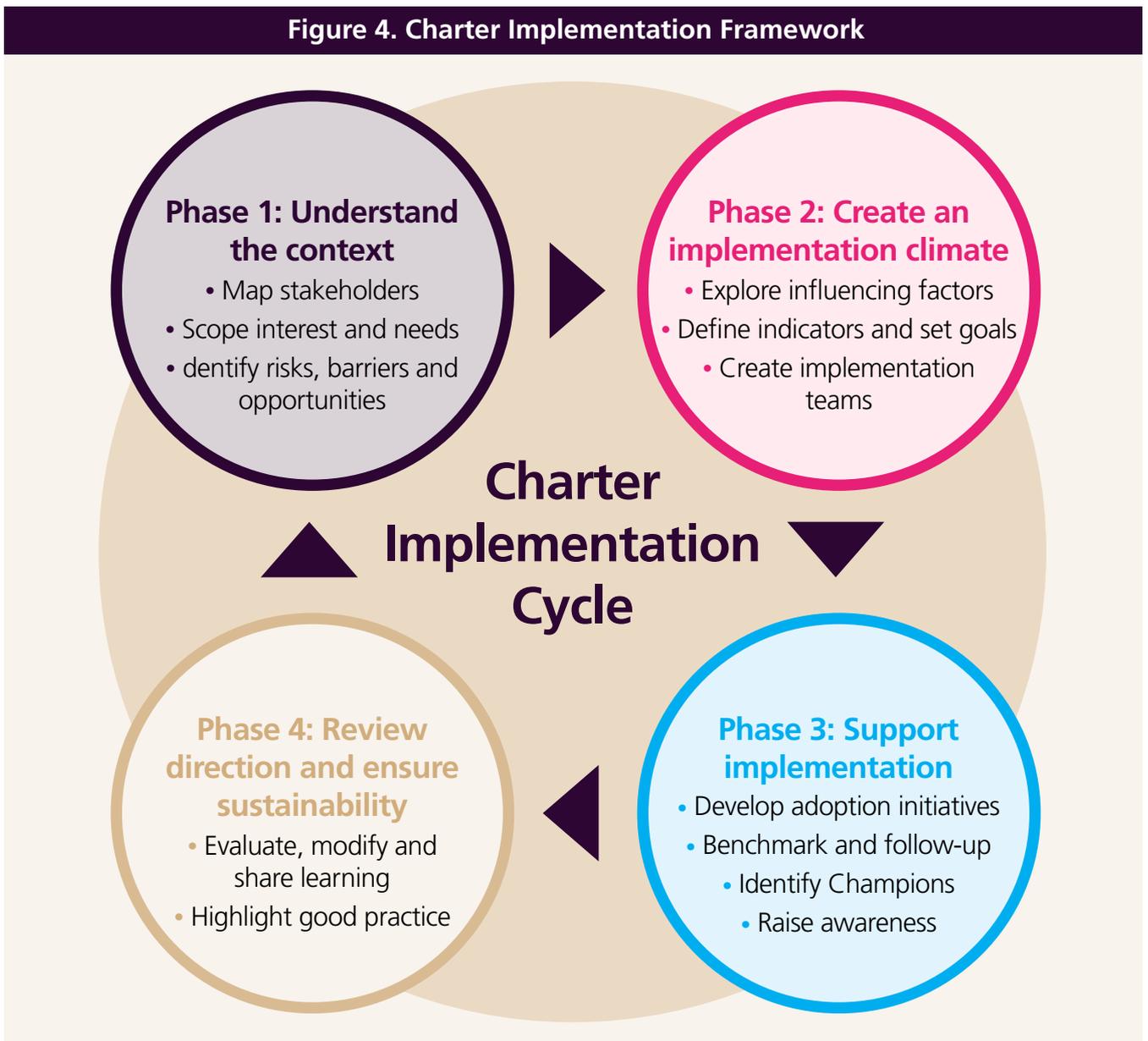
4. Review direction and ensure sustainability

Based on this, we have worked with the Health Boards and NHS Trusts to promote an all-Wales response and to facilitate sharing of existing knowledge and good practice. We have also coordinated and supported the development of tools and guidance to drive the implementation process. Each Health Board and NHS Trust has adopted a lead topic to implement the Charter. The outputs will be collated into an **all-Wales Charter Implementation Toolkit**. This work has moved us into **phase three** of the implementation process.

Key pieces of **ongoing work** include:

1. A situation analysis on **indemnity insurance** (led by Velindre NHS Trust in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Public Health Wales)
2. Guidance on **international recruitment and donation** of medical equipment and supplies (led by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board)
3. A **Continuing Professional Development Toolkit** (led by Cwm Taf University Health Board).

Figure 4. Charter Implementation Framework



# Where we are: accelerating Charter implementation

This section follows IHCC progress in supporting Charter implementation across the Welsh Health Boards and NHS Trusts. It highlights the IHCC's own products and developments as well as some examples of good practice across the NHS. It is structured in four sub-sections following the **Charter's founding principles**:

## 01 Organisational Responsibilities

## 02 Reciprocal Partnership Working

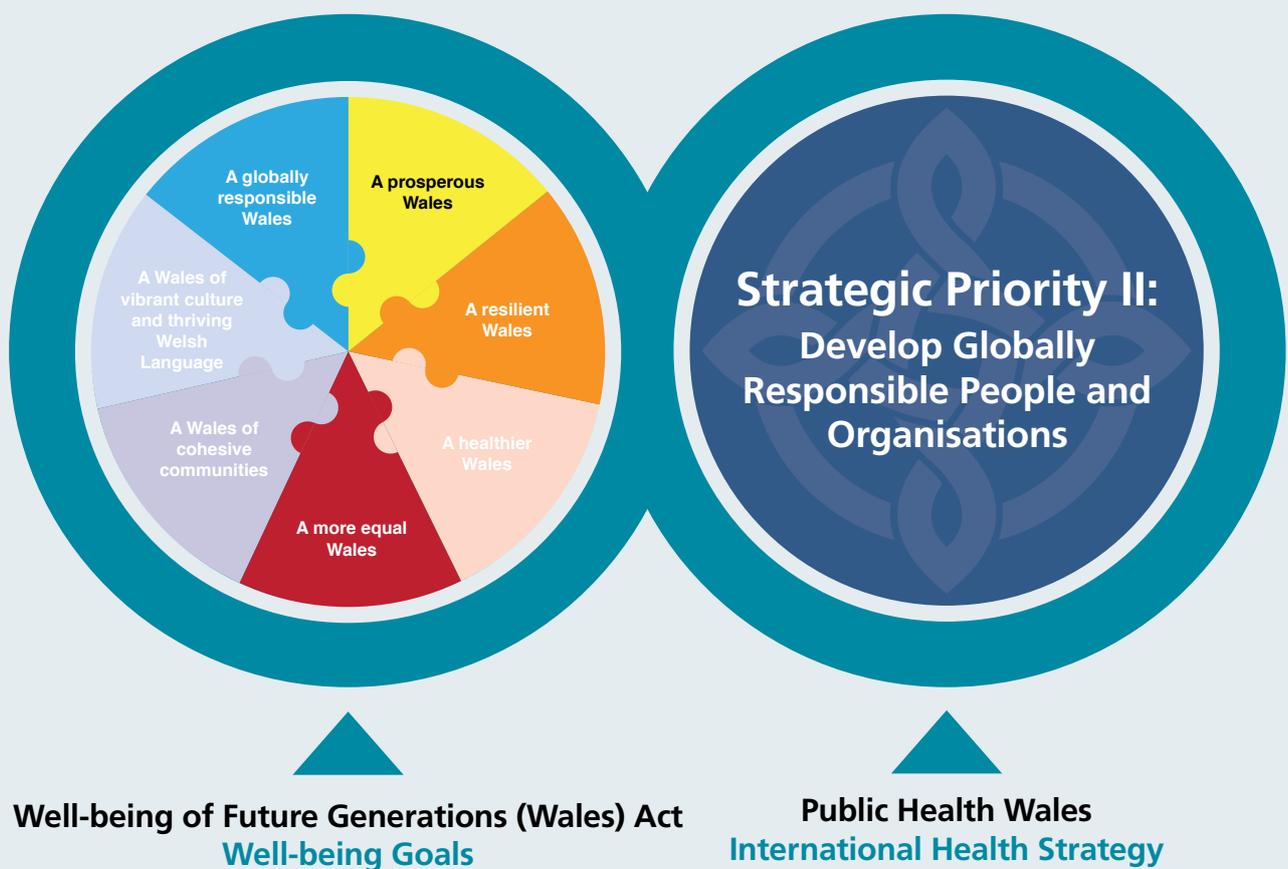
## 03 Good Practice

## 04 Sound Governance



# 01 Organisational Responsibilities

Strong organisational engagement and commitment are essential for successful international health partnerships. This may include support for special leave, provision of resources to support partnership development and Executive-level reporting processes on international partnerships. Implementing this Charter principle supports the WFGA well-being goals and Public Health Wales International Health Strategy priorities as highlighted below.



## What the IHCC has achieved

### Strengthening the NHS Charter Implementation Group (CIG)

The CIG has been providing an opportunity for the Health Boards and NHS Trusts to share information, to create networking opportunities, and to develop work-streams to support the Charter implementation process. Based on the benchmarking exercise, the CIG is developing a Charter Implementation Toolkit

(as outlined on page 10), providing an all-Wales guidance focused on areas, identified as difficult to implement.

### Celebrating progress, promoting mutual learning

Our events have showcased the progress made in implementing the Charter. They have also highlighted key policy developments and opportunities related to international health.

## Sustainable Development and International Health Partnerships in Wales

This 2015 event celebrated the first anniversary of the Charter launch. It brought together over 90 participants from across Wales and the world to raise awareness of the sustainable development agenda and to explore its implications for Wales. Four Health Boards and NHS Trusts – Powys Teaching Health Board; Public Health Wales; Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust; Hywel Dda University Health Board – presented their progress in implementing the Charter.

## Networks and Partnerships: Wales Collaborating for Global Health

At the beginning of 2017, over 60 participants gathered to discuss the opportunities, benefits and challenges of networks, partnerships and collaborations for human and planetary health. Over 170 more participants followed it live stream on social media. With a diverse panel of Welsh, UK and international speakers, this event offered opportunities to share knowledge, experience and to network. On this occasion, Cwm Taf University Health Board, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board showcased their work in implementing the Charter.

## Charter implementation: examples of progress across the NHS



### Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB): 2017 International Health Week

BCUHB launched an International Health Week following a Board Development Session. The week included events and exhibitions across each District General Hospital. This brought together Board members, Wales for Africa Links members, volunteers and corporate staff. The International Health Week promoted the Charter and its principles while raising awareness across the Health Board, making new contacts and identifying those who might be interested in international health.

BCUHB, which has strong corporate support for the Charter, will continue to raise awareness through increased activity, new grant applications, and establishing strategic international health partnerships.

#### To find out more:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/92819/>



BCUHB International Health Week

## Cwm Taf University Health Board (CTUHB): raising awareness of the organisational commitment to the Charter

In September 2016, CTUHB held a celebratory week to raise awareness of international health opportunities, projects and partnerships already up and running. Led by a small team of management graduate trainees, celebration events were organised across two major hospitals sites. People shared their personal experiences and passion for international health partnership work. The partnerships presented included:

- The Oral Maxillofacial Aid and Education Mission in Nepal
- Exploration of a collaborative arrangement with Vanuatu trainee doctors
- The Zimbabwe Health Training Support Diaspora health link
- PONT community to community link between Rhondda Cynon Taf, South Wales and Mbale, Uganda.



### CTUHB International Health Week

The CTUHB celebratory week was an important networking opportunity for staff involved in these projects. Over 60 people attended, including Executive Directors, Senior Managers and a range of clinical and non-clinical professionals. Other presentations were provided by representatives of the IHCC and charities with links to funding opportunities.

#### To find out more:

<https://ihcc.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/news/looking-back-international-health-partnerships-week-cwm-taf/>

<http://pont-mbale.org.uk/main/index.php>

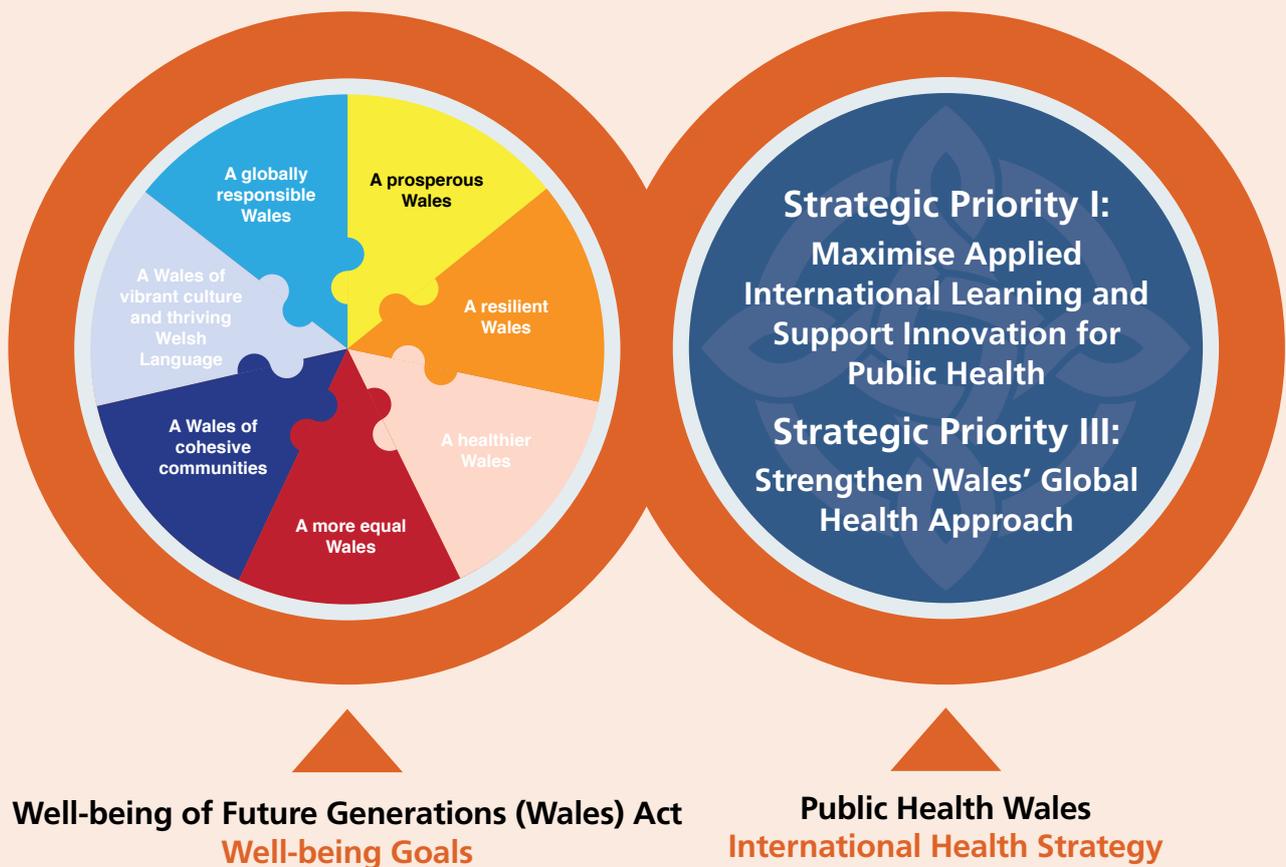
## Public Health Wales: developing research into the health experiences of asylum seekers and refugees in Wales

Public Health Wales prioritises evidence-based policy and practice as part of its national role and responsibilities. To strengthen organisational and global responsibility, and to create a more equal and a healthier Wales, a programme of work around the Asylum Seeker and Refugee agenda is being developed. Research commissioned in 2017 will investigate the effect of health service experiences on the health and well-being of adult asylum seekers and refugees in Wales, by determining the positive and negative factors that influence appropriate and accessible use.

This work will add value to the development, implementation and evaluation of joined-up policy for asylum seekers and refugees in Wales. It will also support better understanding, protection, improvement and promotion of health and well-being for asylum seekers and refugees. The research has been commissioned to academic and third sector partners, and the findings will progress this agenda forward in the next years.

## 02 Reciprocal Partnership Working

A collaborative relationship between two or more parties is based on trust, equality, joint respect and understanding. The Charter is working to build strong, active and trusting partnerships with health organisations across Wales, the UK, and around the world. This will lead to improved global health outcomes. Implementing this Charter principle supports the WFGA well-being goals and Public Health Wales International Health Strategy priorities as highlighted below.



## What the IHCC has achieved

### Scoping of insurance arrangements for international travel in the NHS

Health Boards and NHS Trusts have to ensure that employees have appropriate insurance coverage when travelling abroad for work. The need to look into existing practices of providing professional indemnity insurance has been also identified by the benchmarking exercise. Exploratory work led by Velindre NHS Trust, Public Health Wales and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has identified current arrangements and practices of other professional bodies and organisations. This, along with recommendations, will be published in the coming year.

### Building capacity, promoting funding and partnership opportunities

In February 2016, the IHCC and Public Health Wales, in partnership with Welsh Government, organised a masterclass 'European Funding and Collaboration for Health and Wellbeing in Wales' (IHCC, 2016a). The event provided an overview of European funding and networking opportunities available. It also offered practical sessions to develop skills in applying for projects. To support this work the IHCC published two catalogues on European funding (IHCC, 2016b; IHCC, 2016c).

The IHCC and Welsh Government also delivered tailored information for the health sector through a series of workshops and strategic meetings. These events explored

international partnership development and access to external funds. The IHCC continues to provide information on open funding calls and partnership opportunities through its e-bulletin, website and email communication.

### Active collaboration and leadership with the WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) and the WHO European Regions for Health Network (RHN)

The IHCC, as part of the International Health Division, has a dynamic relationship with WHO EURO, actively supporting the RHN activity and representing Wales on its Steering Group. Our staff also supports the Welsh Healthy Cities programme, working together with local government partners. Through this mutually beneficial collaboration, we are actively contributing to European and global policy and decision-making processes. The partnership has enabled us to share Wales' success stories and has raised our national and international profile.

### Supporting the Wales for Africa Programme and its Annual Conference

The IHCC has maintained positive relationships with the Hub Cymru Africa and the Wales for Africa Health Links Network (WFAHLN). It has continuously supported the delivery of the annual Wales for Africa Health Conference and various engagement activities, such as the WFAHLN Shared Learning Events and the annual Hub Cymru Africa Conference.



Professor Mark A Bellis speaking at the Wales for Africa Health Conference 2017

## Charter implementation: examples of progress across the NHS



### Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) and Velindre NHS Trust: collaborating for the South Wales Sierra Leone Cancer Care Link

Specialist training in cancer and palliative care has been lacking in Sierra Leone for medical students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Palliative care and support is crucial for patients, including children, who are diagnosed with terminal cancers - and for their families. In Sierra Leone, cancer treatment is often only offered to those who can afford it.

The South Wales Sierra Leone Cancer Care Link (SWSLCC) is addressing these challenges by improving quality and access to cancer and palliative care services. Doctors and nurses in Sierra Leone are enthusiastic and recognise the need to learn how to care for cancer patients.

The work of the SWSLCC includes:

- Developing oncology and palliative care service in Sierra Leone by partnering with counterparts, setting up strategic engagement with the hospital and government officials, and delivering a multi-disciplinary training course.
- Establishing a paediatric oncology service in (with leadership from CVUHB) at Ola During Children's Hospital, the only paediatric hospital in Sierra Leone. Treatment is now available for children with selected types of cancers.
- Strengthening palliative care services by training staff from five hospitals and health facilities in Freetown. Additionally, the



SWSLCC provided advice in setting up a dedicated palliative service at Shepherd's hospice in Freetown.

- Developing tailored services for breast cancer patients through joint teaching, the formation of guidelines, and donation of screening equipment in partnership with Breast Testing Wales.
- Developing information strategies such as a cancer registry in association with Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit and pathology diagnostic services.

The work has raised the profile of cancer and palliative care in Sierra Leone, building political support and leading the way to improve training, care and research for non-communicable diseases. In Wales, the SWSLCC has shared their experience with health professionals, Welsh Universities and third sector organisations. SWSLCC plans to provide further training in paediatric oncology and the development of cancer and palliative care services in Sierra Leone. SWSLCC will also explore sustainable funding for patient education and support and further paediatric cancer treatment. Longer term aims include the development of diagnostic and imaging services, and to provide central venous access for children.

**To find out more:**

 @SWSLCancerCare



### **Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB): Wales for Africa Programme in North Wales**

The BCUHB Wales for Africa Programme involves primary care in Quthing, Lesotho and hospital care in Hossana Hospital, Ethiopia with offshoots to a primary care link and eye care link in Hawassa, Ethiopia. BCUHB staff have travelled to partner organisations in Africa and worked collaboratively to increase workforce capacity and capability. This creates access to better quality healthcare in the host country.

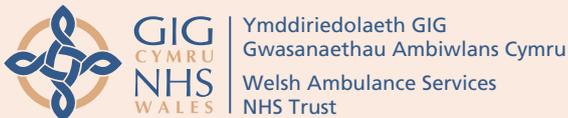
Humanitarian work has also helped Health Board staff gain experience working in constrained environments and new cultures

with many different types of patients. This strengthens their skill set, generates new ideas that can be applied in Wales, and teaches leadership, resilience and resourcefulness, leading to better health care for Welsh patients. The work has exposed staff to the direct impact of infectious diseases that could pose a risk to Wales, such as the Ebola outbreak in 2014. On their return from overseas projects, Health Board staff have shared their experiences in the interests of transferring the learning to others to improve the quality of health services for patients in North Wales.

#### **To find out more:**

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/94206>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/opendoc/311881>



### **Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST): scaling up international engagement to improve health at home and abroad**

WAST has scaled up international engagement to capitalise on the benefits gained from shared experiences and approaches to mitigate common challenges, such as increased demand, financial pressures, health inequalities and an ageing population, facing services around the world. The scope of international engagement has taken various forms.

On a local level WAST hosted senior managers and clinicians from Canada, Denmark and the Western Australian and South Australian Emergency Medical Services. The delegation explored the Trust's clinical improvement initiatives, operational context and service transformation journey, focused on improving clinical outcomes and patient experience. They also learned about prudent health care

initiatives and the new clinical response model and the benefits it brings to patients and staff, as facilitated through first-hand experiences. They discussed common challenges and opportunities facing international health systems and the benefits of reciprocal working.

On an international level a team of WAST staff visited India along with colleagues from the London and South Western Ambulance Services and the London Fire Brigade. The team shared their knowledge and skills, and trained staff and school children in Amritsar and Jamshedpur in first aid. They were awarded the Charity Challenge Team award by the Asian Fire Service Association.

Several paramedics from WAST are also signed up to the UK-Med community of practice and have been on-call during 2017 in preparation for deployment to trauma, medical and public health emergencies in line with World Health Organization aims.

#### **To find out more:**

<http://www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk/?gclid=1516&pageid=2&lan=en>

## Public Health Wales: supporting investment for health and well-being across Wales and the European Region

Public Health Wales has been working closely with the WHO EURO and the Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice. A joint work programme on 'Investment for health and well-being' in the context of sustainable development has been developed. It focuses on introducing, enhancing and taking forward a sustainable early intervention, people-centred long-term investment approach across all sectors and organisations for the benefit of Wales and European Region Member States.

Public Health Wales has synthesized national and European evidence (Public Health Wales, 2016; WHO 2017), showing that public health is a driver of social, economic and environmental sustainability and prosperity for all. The international team is working actively to inform, support and advocate for wider health and cross-sector approaches and interventions that offer benefits to the people, the health system, and the wider economy. This work also enables the organisation and other agencies to reach the full potential of the WFGA, and the implementation of the SDGs.

Recognising its expertise and achievements, Public Health Wales Policy, Research and International Development Directorate has been designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre on 'Investment for Health and Well-being'. This supports its function and position as a world leading public health agency, maximising our international impact, reciprocal partnership opportunities and helping to protect, improve and promote health and well-being within and beyond Welsh borders.



Launch of the WHO European report on Investment for Health and Well-being at the 2017 WHO Regional Committee for Europe



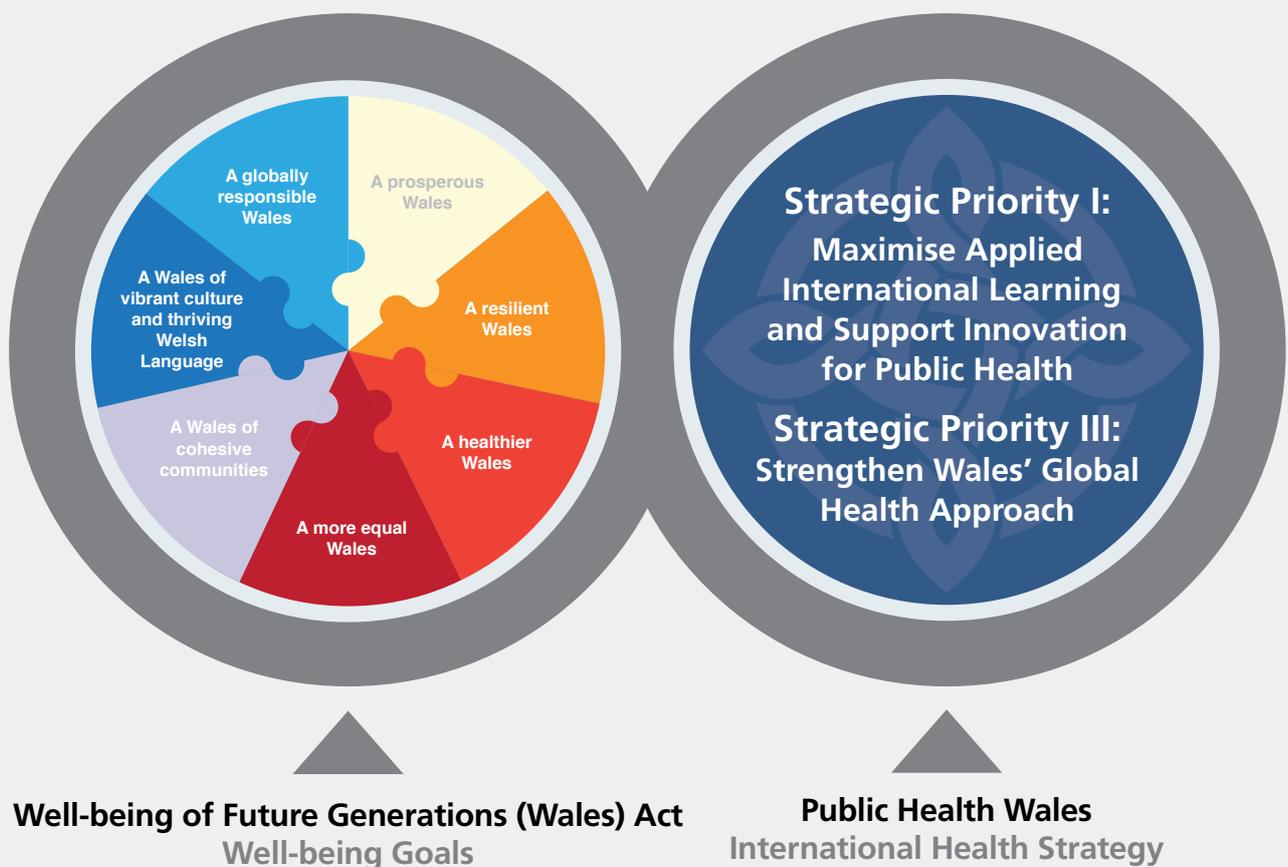
### To find out more:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/organization/office-locations/who-european-office-for-investment-for-health-and-development,-venice,-italy>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/46120>

## 03 Good Practice

The Charter prioritises an evidence-based approach underpinning all new policies, programmes and interventions. It searches for positive results to be celebrated and implemented widely; and fosters an open non-blame culture willing to learn when things go wrong. This is essential for an effective and collaborative teams, organisations and projects. Implementing this Charter principle supports the WFGA well-being goals and Public Health Wales International Health Strategy priorities as highlighted below.



## What the IHCC has achieved

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### Developing Global Citizenship training for Welsh health professionals



The IHCC explored NHS Wales' staff perception of Global Citizenship in 2015 (IHCC, 2015b). The scoping report identified clear interest amongst staff in Global Citizenship training, with no available tailored training resources on this topic.

To address this gap, the IHCC worked in collaboration with the Welsh Centre for International Affairs to develop and pilot two Global Citizenship training courses for Welsh health professionals in 2016/17. The training

resource aimed to raise awareness of the value of international engagement and act as a platform for those interested in international health partnerships.

The courses were piloted in partnership with Cwm Taf University Health Board as part of their lead role for the Charter implementation toolkit - to have international engagement recognised as Continued Professional Development (CPD). Participants' feedback was very positive and also suggested some refinements to ensure the courses are well tailored to a health audience (IHCC, 2017a). The IHCC is presently refining and developing further the course for delivery across Wales and the UK.

## Charter implementation: examples of progress across the NHS

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### Cwm Taf University Health Board (CTUHB): developing a practical guide for international health partnership work

CTUHB has taken leadership and responsibility for the recognition of international engagement as CPD and for establishing procedures and conditions for granting special leave to those involved in international work. As part of this work, CTUHB has developed a framework to provide user-friendly and practical guidance on undertaking international health partnerships. The document also supports effective planning and monitoring of projects, with useful information on insurance, risk assessments and memoranda of understanding.

CTUHB has also developed a practical CPD toolkit, which has been formulated to aid sharing and reflections on experiences abroad and is based around a series of self-assessments. The CPD toolkit was endorsed at the CTUHB International Health Partnership Forum. Finally, the 'International Health Partnerships Support Policy', which includes conditions for special leave, was reviewed and updated in October 2017.

The CPD toolkit, staff support policy, framework and selection criteria is currently at consultation stage via the CIG.

## Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMUHB): Swansea, becoming a WHO Healthy City

Part of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, Swansea's Healthy City designation and participation has been supported by Public Health Wales Local Public Health Team, ABMUHB; the City and County of Swansea; the Flying Start and Communities First programmes; and Welsh Government. Political leadership and senior executive support across the Health Board and Local Authority has been critical in shifting the culture towards a fully integrated approach to address growing urban challenges through the sharing of experiences and tackling health inequalities.



**Swansea Healthy City** is actively implementing the WHO European Strategy Health 2020, translating its values, strategic objectives and priorities for action on a local level. A particular example is 'Celluloid Heroes', a community developed 'smoke free homes' resource, working in two Flying Start centres in Swansea and promoting smoke free homes. With the assistance of Bonymaen Communities First Team, local insight into smoking in the home environment and the acceptability of existing resources was gained. Based on this, a short DVD resource was produced to promote smoke-free home messages, featuring local families and a local school.

### To find out more:

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/19490/About-Swansea-Healthy-City>

## Public Health Wales: undertaking an international peer review to assess organisational effectiveness

Public Health Wales has gained international recognition through full membership of the International Association of National Public Health Institutions (IANPHI). IANPHI seeks to increase global public health capacity by strengthening and linking national public health institutes to address critical public health challenges. It does so by leveraging the experience and expertise of member institutes to build robust public health systems.

Since gaining membership of IANPHI, Public Health Wales has benefited from:

- Increased recognition of Wales by the international community
- Opportunities to share good practice with the international community
- Access to the global advocacy and support mechanisms that contribute to improving national public health institutes, and supporting their delivery of core public health functions.

Public Health Wales has undergone a formal IANPHI Peer Review aiming to critically evaluate the organisation's effectiveness over the past three years and the associated strategic plans and priorities. The findings will inform Public Health Wales' long-term strategy and would help to improve its work, policies and practices.

### To find out more:

<http://www.ianphi.org/news/2017/peertopeerwales.html>

## Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB): signing an international twinning agreement to improve mental health

In 2015, HDUHB established a new International Twinning Collaboration Convention with the Trieste Mental Health Service Department in Italy, who are recognised by WHO as a centre of excellence for mental health recovery.

Supported by the International Mental Health Collaborating Network, the agreement aims to improve quality in community mental health services, share best practices and bring knowledge and skills to Wales to improve the health of Welsh citizens. So far, the collaboration has resulted in formal Action Learning Sets, staff exchange programmes (including wider stakeholders, service users and carers), and mentoring and support to each service, including joint training, seminars and events.

In 2017, HDUHB representatives presented on the Transforming Mental Health Programme at the International Mental Health Congress which brought together over 150 delegates,

including experts from Wales, England, Ireland, Italy, Australia, Czech Republic, Poland and Malaysia. The conference provided a range of international perspectives and learning on transforming the culture of mental health services, with a focus on improving services using evidence-based methods and measures.

HDUHB has also been approached by a Health Board in the Czech Republic to advise them on their planned transformation of Mental Health services. Representatives from the HDUHB Mental Health Directorate will be supporting the Czech Republic over the next year in starting this process and have been linked formally by the International Mental Health Collaborating Network.

### To find out more:

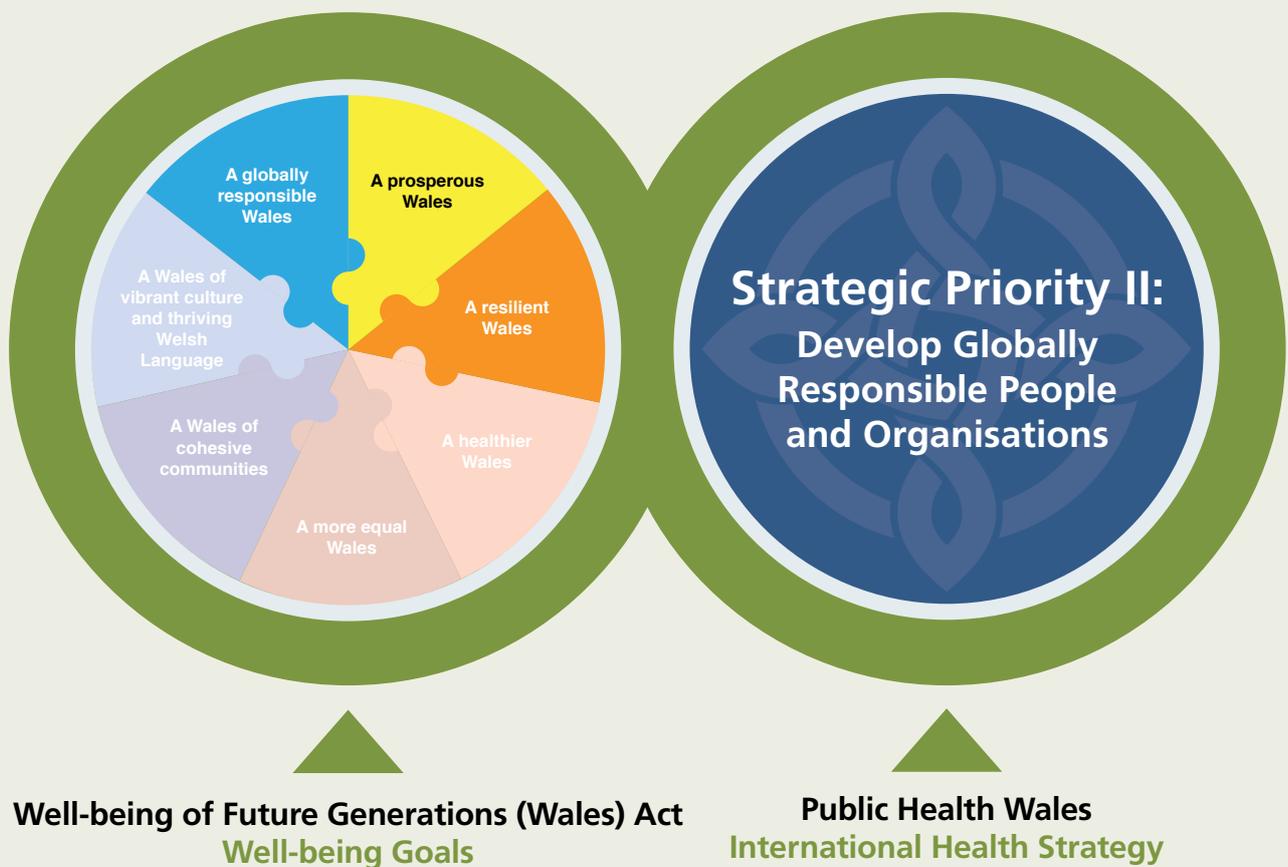
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/news/37439/>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/news/41425>



## 04 Sound Governance

Clearly agreed aims, objectives and areas of responsibility for all partners involved in a partnership are essential. The Charter drives the development and implementation of sound governance models that facilitate transparent, effective partnerships with clear lines of responsibility and accountability. Good governance is fundamental to improving health outcomes around the world. Implementing this Charter principle supports the WFGA well-being goals and Public Health Wales International Health Strategy priorities as highlighted below.



### What the IHCC has achieved

#### Enabling International Health Governance within Health Boards and NHS Trusts

Sound governance in health partnerships ensures that good practice is adhered to through clearly agreed aims, objectives and areas of responsibility. To date, four Health Boards and NHS Trusts have developed their own international health groups, including Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Betsi

Cadwaladr University Health Board, Cwm Taf University Health Board and Public Health Wales. In its role as an all-Wales body, the IHCC provides guidance, support and information for international health groups established by the Health Boards and NHS Trusts.

# Charter implementation: examples of progress across the NHS



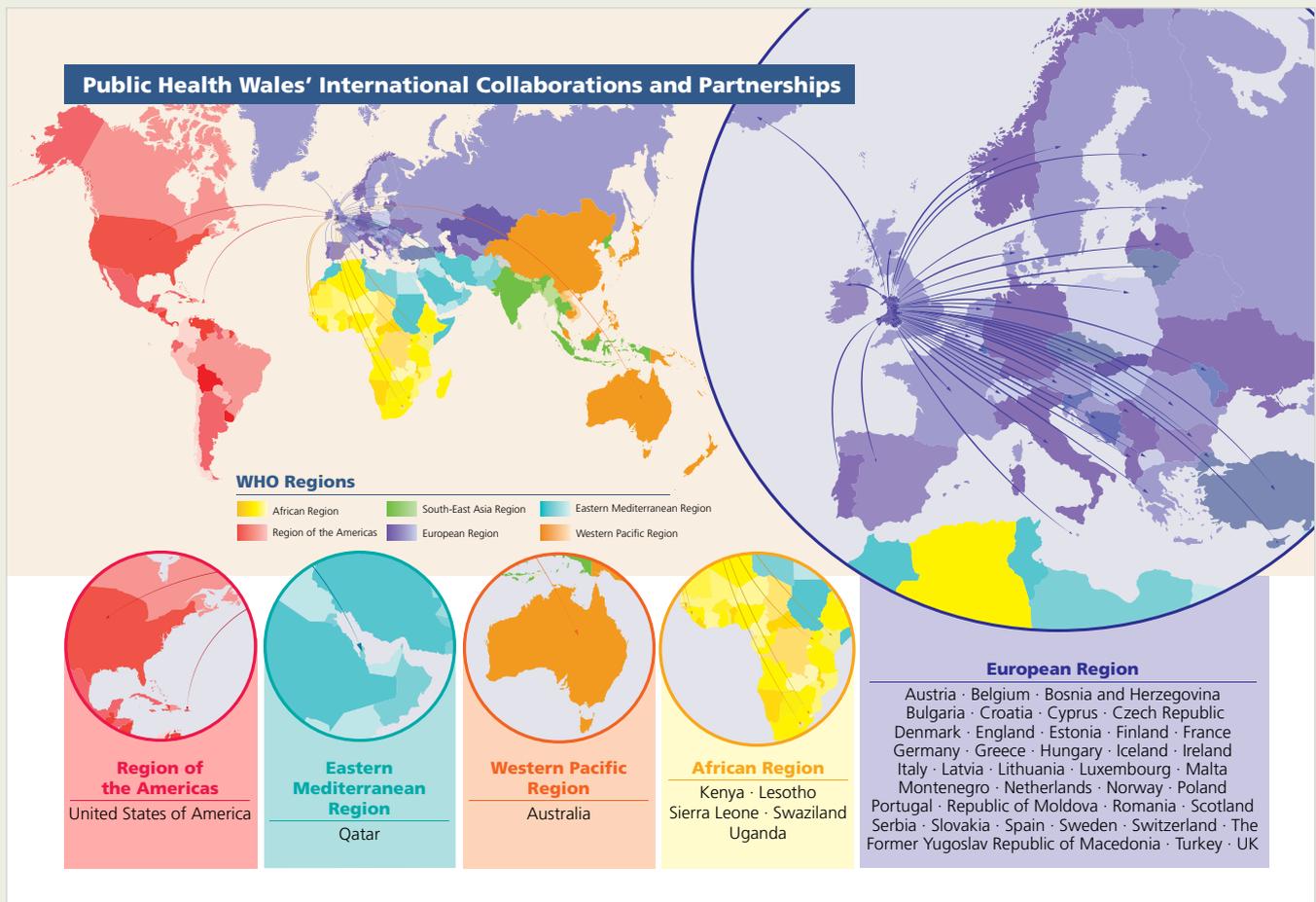
## Public Health Wales: mapping the organisation's international reach

Public Health Wales has mapped its international health activity, providing a snapshot of recent and active networks, projects and initiatives. All directorates within the organisation responded, showcasing more than 90 active collaborations with 60 organisations. They cover five of the six WHO Regions, including Europe, the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Western Pacific and the African Regions. These include 25 complete and 21 ongoing international research projects along

with 31 UK collaborations, nine international partnerships, and six projects with international scope. The projects will be published as a supplement to support the organisational International Health Strategy. They can be seen on the International Health Partnership Database (IHCC, 2017b), updated annually.

### To find out more:

<https://ihcc.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/working-internationally/welsh-international-health-partnership-database/>





GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

## Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB): updating governance arrangements for international health partnerships

BCUHB has updated its governance arrangements for international health partnerships in 2017. An International Health Group was established to monitor local progress against the Charter, and oversee associated development work. The Group will support staff who becomes involved in overseas partnership activity. The Health Board also set up a website to promote this area of work.

BCUHB has drafted All Wales Guidance on Donating Medical Equipment and Supplies to International Partners and All Wales Guidance on the Recruitment of International Healthcare Professionals. These will be presented for adoption via the Charter Implementation Group.

### To find out more:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/92819/>



# Where we are going: the opportunities ahead

The responsibilities placed on the Welsh Health Boards and NHS Trusts under the WFGA, and specifically the 'Globally Responsible Wales' goal, are driving the work of the IHCC forward. By supporting international health work and engagement through the Charter, the IHCC is strengthening the development of knowledge, skills, experience and resources that contribute to the prosperity, health and well-being of the people of Wales. During and after the UK leaving the European Union (Brexit), the IHCC aims to retain and strengthen links with European partners, as well as to develop strategic partnerships globally.

Over the next two years, we will consolidate our achievements in implementing the Charter. We will also seek out and create new opportunities to increase Wales' visibility and influence beyond our borders. Our specific commitments are outlined below.

## **Build on success to ensure strong capacity and expertise across Wales**

### **1. Publish an all-Wales Charter**

**Implementation Toolkit:** Each Health Board and Trust has led Charter guidance areas for the past two years. The toolkit will strengthen NHS applied knowledge and shared expertise.

### **2. Evaluate progress of the Charter**

**implementation:** This will use the 2015 benchmarking assessment as a baseline. The results from the evaluation will be used to inform future development in international health work across Wales.

### **3. Further develop Global Citizenship**

**training** to be used by NHS staff across Wales and beyond: This will raise awareness of the global health agenda and of local opportunities to deliver the Charter and to help develop a Globally Responsible Wales.

## **Consolidate synergies and governance to mainstream international engagement across the NHS**

We are strengthening the governance of the IHCC and international work within Health Boards and NHS Trusts to facilitate and enable sustainable international engagement across our health system.

- Revising the Terms of Reference for the CIG clarifies the synergies with the WFGA and strengthen the role of the group. A new process for sign-off on all-Wales guidance will ensure full dissemination across the NHS, and build support for these initiatives at Executive level.
- The IHCC is supporting the International Health Groups established in several Health Boards and NHS Trusts. It will be helping to establish new ones, as well as to facilitate exchange between them.



## **Strengthen our partnerships and seek new opportunities to learn, promote Wales and increase its impact on the global health agenda**

Other UK nations have shown great interest in both the IHCC and the Charter, and we will work to strengthen sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships. Sharing and promoting our work will help our international partners benefit from the Welsh experience. We will also continue to support mutual learning and dissemination of international good practice and expertise across Wales.

Collaboration with the WHO, IANPHI and other global organisations and networks will help us leverage new opportunities for learning, sharing and increasing our impact and visibility.



## **Support sustainable and fair investment for health and well-being to enable and drive prosperity for all**

An overarching 'Framework for Investment for Health and Sustainable Development' has been developed in partnership with the WHO (WHO, 2017; see Box 5 in Appendix). This framework recognises the complex reciprocal multi-sectoral and multi-level relationship between investing in health and achieving sustainable development. There is a consensus that the health sector plays a leading role in creating empowered and resilient communities, and that transformative policies and actions will deliver better lives and a healthier future. The

IHCC will expand and strengthen its role as an advocate for, and facilitator of investing for health and well-being as an enabler of social, economic and environmental sustainability, security and prosperity for all.

## **Sustain IHCC progress and deliver on expectations**

A coherent and coordinated approach to international collaboration is essential. The IHCC facilitates this through: developing and implementing sound governance, accountability and evaluation processes; enhancing input from relevant stakeholders and partnerships; prioritising and implementing relevant activities; and scanning the horizon for future challenges and opportunities.

There has been an increase in demand and expectation placed on the IHCC function. This requires prioritisation of objectives and activities; and having adequate resources (investment) in order to maximise benefits to the NHS, Wales and to our external partners. There are two approaches to ensure the unique IHCC function and future work continue and expand across Wales and the world:

- Strategic national investment through Welsh Government and through stakeholder input from across the public, academic, third and private sectors. This can be achieved, for example, through joint programmes of work; and increasing IHCC capacity.
- International investment through the use of UK, European and global sources for income generation. This can be achieved through participation in joint international projects, marketing of innovative services and approaches, and leveraging commercial and trade opportunities.

Through the Public Health Wales' International Health Strategy, we can facilitate income generation and capacity building, providing a shared vision and framework for international engagement. This creates an enabling environment and outward-looking culture and practice. It is hoped this will benefit the NHS in Wales as a whole.

# Conclusion

The IHCC has made substantial gains in furthering international learning and good practice in Wales with minimal resources. The accomplishments outlined in this report, particularly the benchmarking exercise and strengthening international partnerships, highlight the benefits of the IHCC platform for health partners across Wales to share information, collaborate and network.

As the Charter implementation progresses, it will be essential for the IHCC and our partners to maintain momentum to achieve the Charter and the WFGA goals. We should retain the current focus on improving organisational responsibilities, reciprocal partnership working, good practice, and sound governance across Wales. This means disseminating and scaling

up successful local projects and tools over the next years. It requires effective collaboration and sharing of experiences and expertise across the NHS and with our partners. It also means making Global Citizenship training more widely available to NHS staff in Wales and beyond; developing an all-Wales implementation toolkit for the Charter; and conducting an evaluation to determine progress and future directions for the Charter implementation.

One of our key strengths is the ability to incorporate diverse perspectives and feedback into projects and programmes. This uniquely positions the IHCC to lead implementation and to support the Wales Well-being Goals across the NHS over the next two years and beyond.

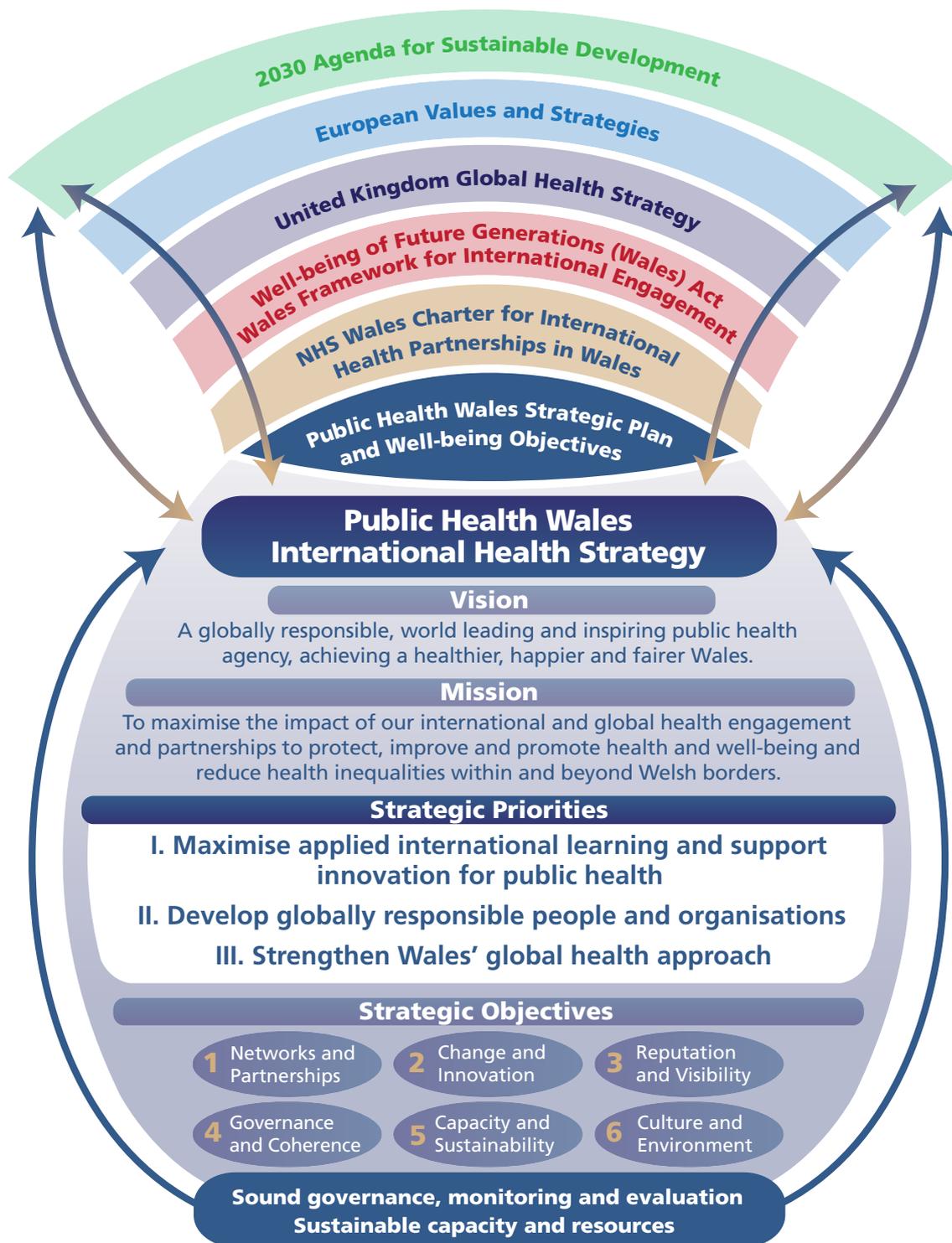


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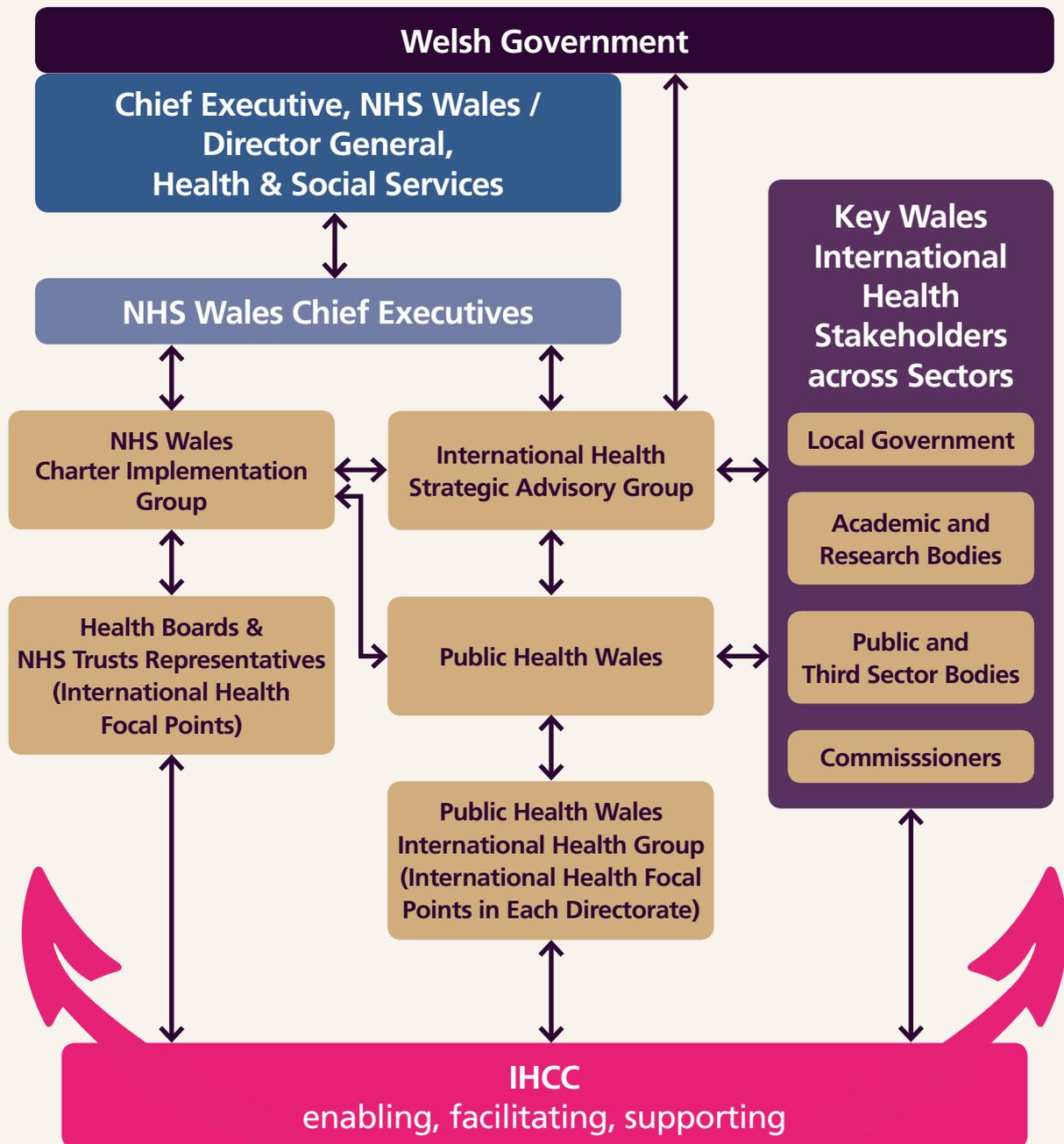
# Appendix

Box 1. Public Health Wales International Health Strategy Map, 2017-2027



Source: Public Health Wales (2017) Public Health Wales: Nationally Focused, Globally Responsible – Our International Health Strategy 2017-2027

## Box 2. Wales International Health Governance Framework



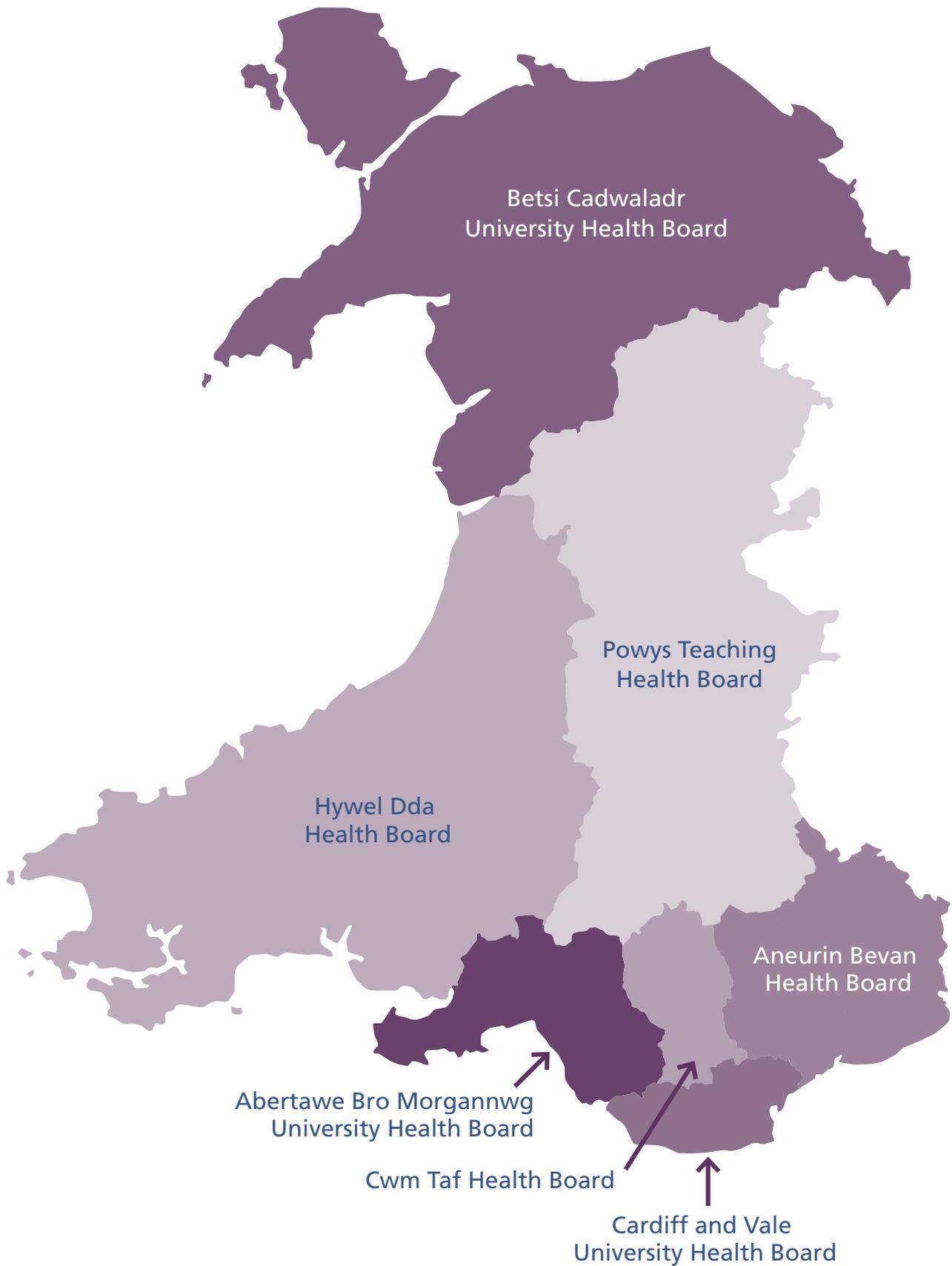
Sound governance is essential for the successful implementation of the Charter for International Health Partnerships in Wales. The Charter Implementation Group is ultimately accountable to the NHS, providing regular updates on progress to the Health Boards and NHS Trusts Chief Executives, the NHS Chief Executive and the Welsh Government, and the International Health Strategic Advisory Group.

The IHCC publishes a progress report every two years and follows the governance and reporting requirements of Public Health Wales.

The Charter Implementation Group also takes into account processes, sign off or agreements required by individual Health Boards and NHS Trusts.

### Box 3. The NHS in Wales

The NHS delivers services through seven Health Boards and three NHS Trusts in Wales.



## Box 4. IHCC International Networks and Links

The IHCC is represented in a number of UK-wide groups, including:

- UK NHS International Health Group
- UK NHS Global Health Volunteering sub-group
- Public Health England Global Health Committee
- Faculty of Public Health Global Health and European Special Interest Groups
- Scottish Government Global Health Committee

We have also developed strong long-term links with global health and international organisations and networks, such as:

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) and its Regional Office for Europe, including: the Regions for Health Network; Healthy Cities; and the Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice
- The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)
- The Commonwealth Secretariat
- EuroHealthNet

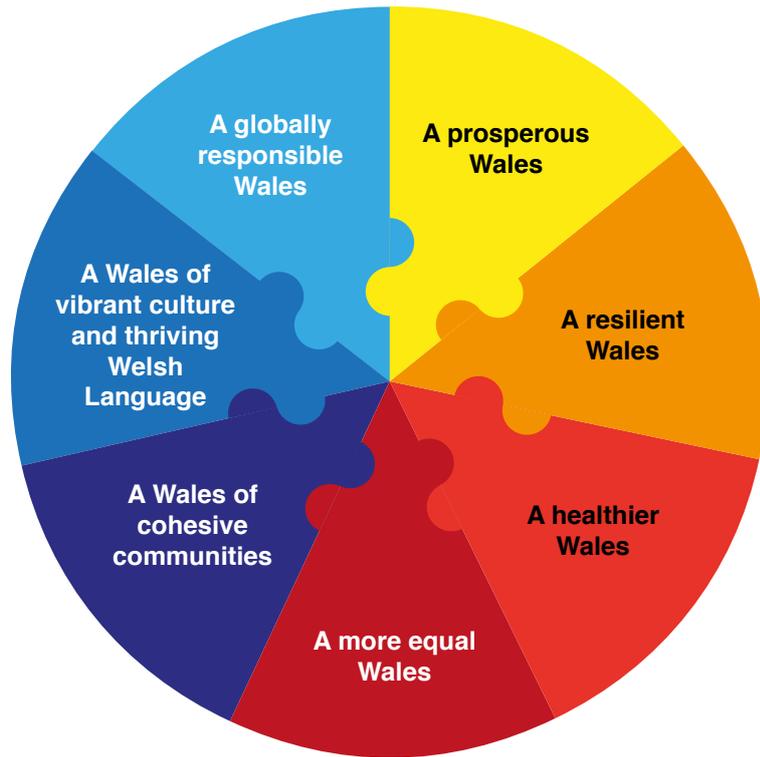
## Box 5. UN 17 Global Goals (SDGs)

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



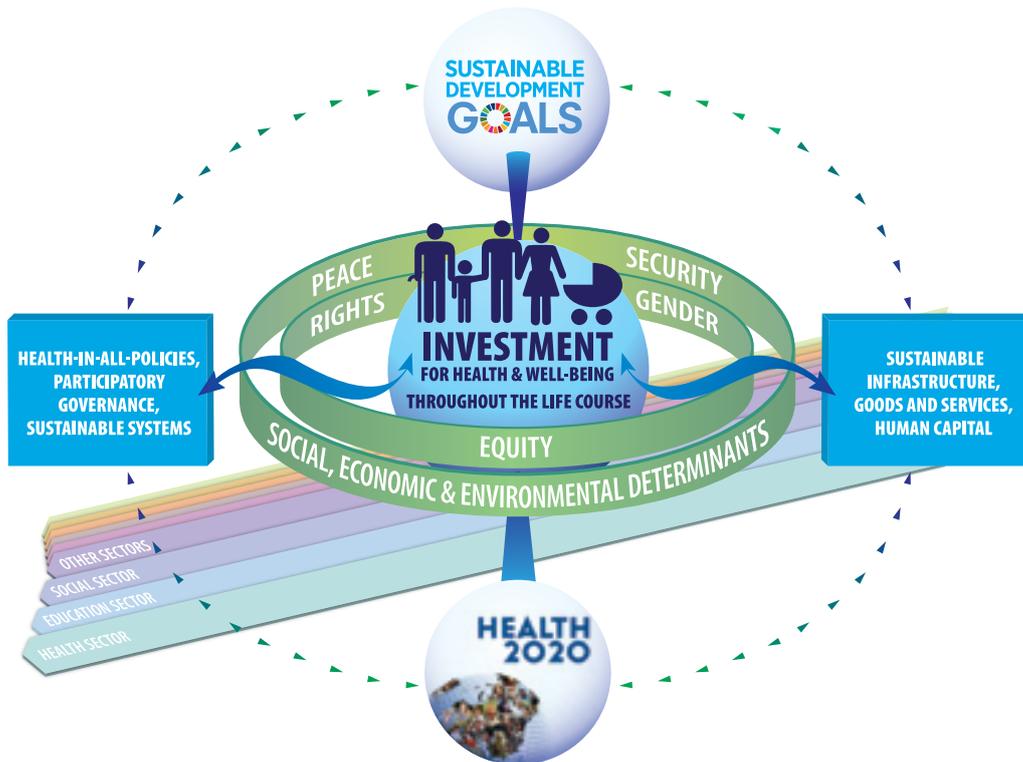
Source: United Nations (2015) Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Box 6. Wales Seven Well-being Goals (WFGA)**



Source: Welsh Government (2015) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

**Box 7. Framework for Investment for Health and Sustainable Development**



Source: World Health Organization (2017) Investment for health and well-being: a review of the social return on investment from public health policies to support implementing the Sustainable Development Goals by building on Health 2020





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