Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of BMA Cymru Wales in response to the above consultation which is being conducted by the Welsh Government. Having closely followed the development of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and having responded to other related consultations during and following its passage, we are grateful to be given the opportunity to comment on this particular consultation.

Whilst we will not be providing a comprehensive response on this occasion, and will not therefore be offering a view in relation to all the questions that have been posed, we would nonetheless like to make a few points for the Welsh Government’s consideration.

We are concerned that within the indicator set proposed there does not appear to have been sufficient consideration given to including measures that can identify progress that may be made towards tackling obesity. Given the growing prevalence of obesity, and its relationship with conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers, it must clearly be seen as a key priority for public policy intervention. Some thought should therefore be given to how we can better measure the impact of the multi-sectoral cross-cutting action that is required to address this issue.

Additionally, we have concerns about the use of proposed indicator 3 (people making healthy lifestyle choices) because such a measure will only record the small number of individuals who have the healthiest behaviours.

Y Gymdeithas Feddygol Brydeinig
Prif weithredwr/Chief executive:
Keith Ward

11 January 2016

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: How do you measure a nation’s progress?

National Well-being Indicators for Wales
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BMA Cymru Wales members are also concerned at the proposal to give equal prominence of all 40 proposed indicators. We would suggest that thought might perhaps be given to identifying a smaller subset of these indicators that could then be designated as headline indicators.

We hope that these views are helpful, and that they can be taken into account prior to any final decisions being taken.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rodney Berman
Senior Policy Executive