

ALCOHOL CHANGE^{UK}



Dr Wulf Livingston

Alcohol Change UK – Conference

London June 2019

Anarchy in the UK Is Wales ahead of England with Alcohol Policy?



Devolved Responsibilities – Different Priorities

- It feels different – no prescription or hospital parking fees, approaches to education etc
- Politics – are Labour and Nationalist (soft socialist leanings)
- Policy –not driven as much by neoliberalist tendencies to cheapest commissioning option
- A belief – (if not always action) in tax and social justice for fairer and better economies
- A belief - in the role of the state, and in particular local government and local welsh third sector – not just delivery by the cheapest tenderer
- The numbers are smaller; densities of population are smaller and this offers different possibilities

Accentuation as each year goes by, after 20 years the differences become marked

Politics

- More consensual policy outcomes (Proportional Representation - it has to be)
- Broadly left wing, but only so so (conservatism with a little c)
- State involvement...with a desire for to drive towards community ownership
- Cardiff centric –huge population and geographical differences
- Willingness to (in part) challenge business and improve the lot of the most disadvantaged (think plastic bags)
- Desire and willingness to not always copy England



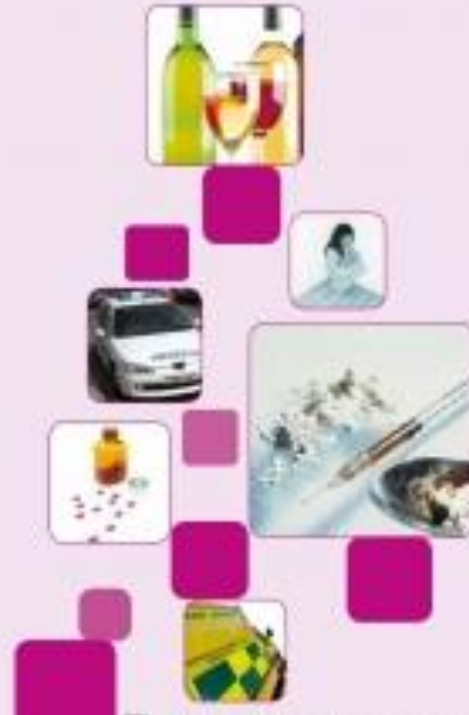


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

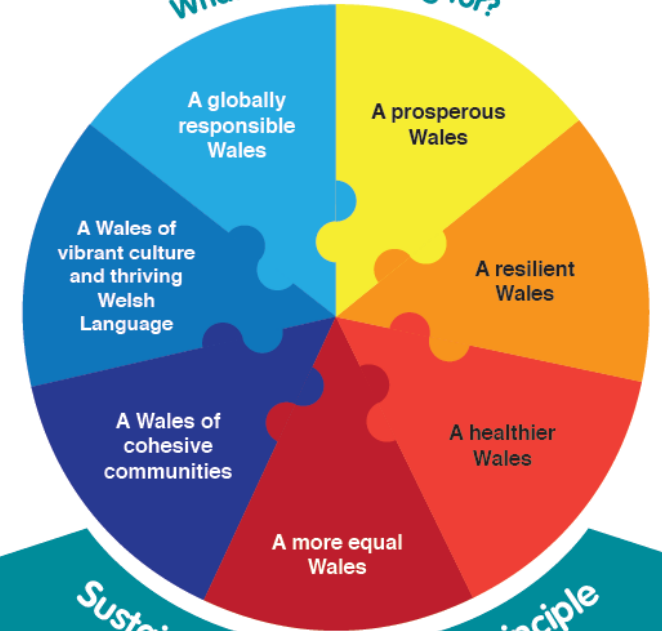
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Working Together to Reduce Harm

Delivery Plan 2016-18



Well-being Goals What we are aiming for?



Sustainable Development Principle How we will deliver



Long Term



Prevention



Integration



Collaboration



Involvement

Policy

- 1st 'substance' policy approach (more advantages than not)
- More localised partnership integration – greater continuity of players
- Harms before profit (sort of)
- Following Scotland with Minimum Pricing for Alcohol
- Early and sustained service user involvement agendas
- Aspirations for inclusive family approaches to interventions (IFSS)
- Celebrating the tourist Welsh product (beer, gin mead, whiskey)
- Treatment agendas are still medically and big pharma led
- Dragonification







Ahead on Alcohol Policy – a bit, maybe more so on social policy.

Ahead in ambition – yes

But we still have

- Saturday night (and other) drink related carnage
- Too much influence by alcohol trade and big retail
- Domination of health and crime in treatment agendas
- Reliance on English and other countries for guidance and research
- Lots of non-devolved issues

Currently the hope lies in devolved rather than Westminster activity