



Introduction

- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFG).
- “a model for other countries” (UN,...)
- ‘Ground-breaking’ because it requires all public bodies to adhere to the Sustainable Development Principle
- Similarities between international legislation

Research Questions

- How does the WFG compare to other international sustainable development legislation?
- How has the WFG been interpreted in the local space?
- What challenges are there to implementing the WFG?

Comparable International Legislation

Sustainable development

- ‘improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.’
- 3 pillars of sustainable development identified by the Brundtland Report (1987), plus *cultural*.
- Comparable to **Hungarian, New Zealand, and Finnish** legislation.

Sustainable Development Reps (Chronological)

| Nation | Affiliation | Powers |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Norway | Independent | Advisory |
| New Zealand | Independent | Audits |
| Australia Capital Territory | Independent | Advisory |
| Finland | Parliamentary Committee | Think Tank |
| Canada | Independent | Audits |
| Israel | Inter-parliamentary body | Audited |
| Hungary | Independent | Advisory |
| Germany | Parliamentary Council | Audits and Advisory |
| Malta | Government body | Advocacy |
| Wales | Independent | Advisory |

Sustainable Development Principle

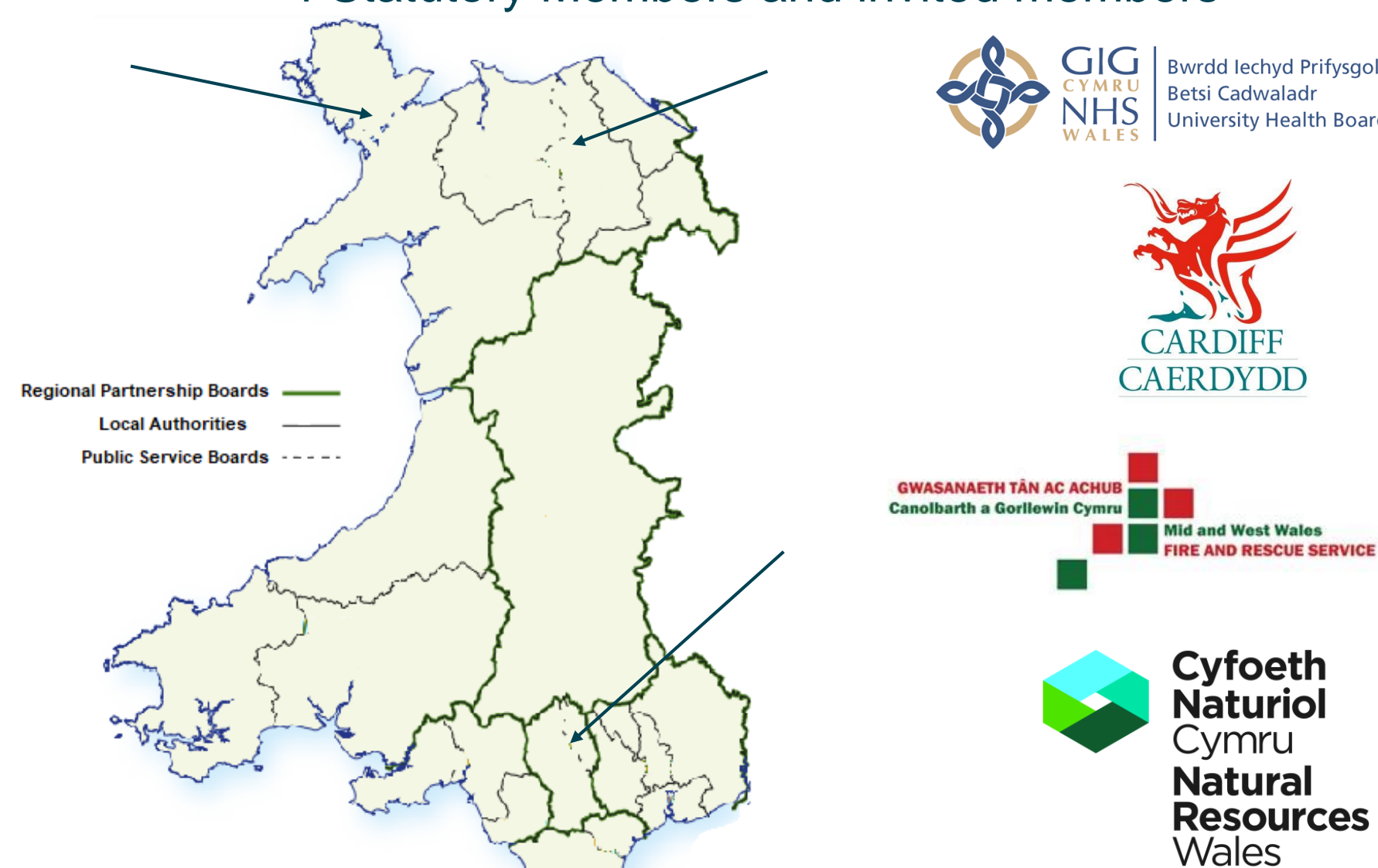
- All public bodies must adhere to the Sustainable Development Principle
- 44 public bodies are subject to the Act
- Unique in legislation** (Davies, 2016; Wallace, 2019).

What's in the Act?

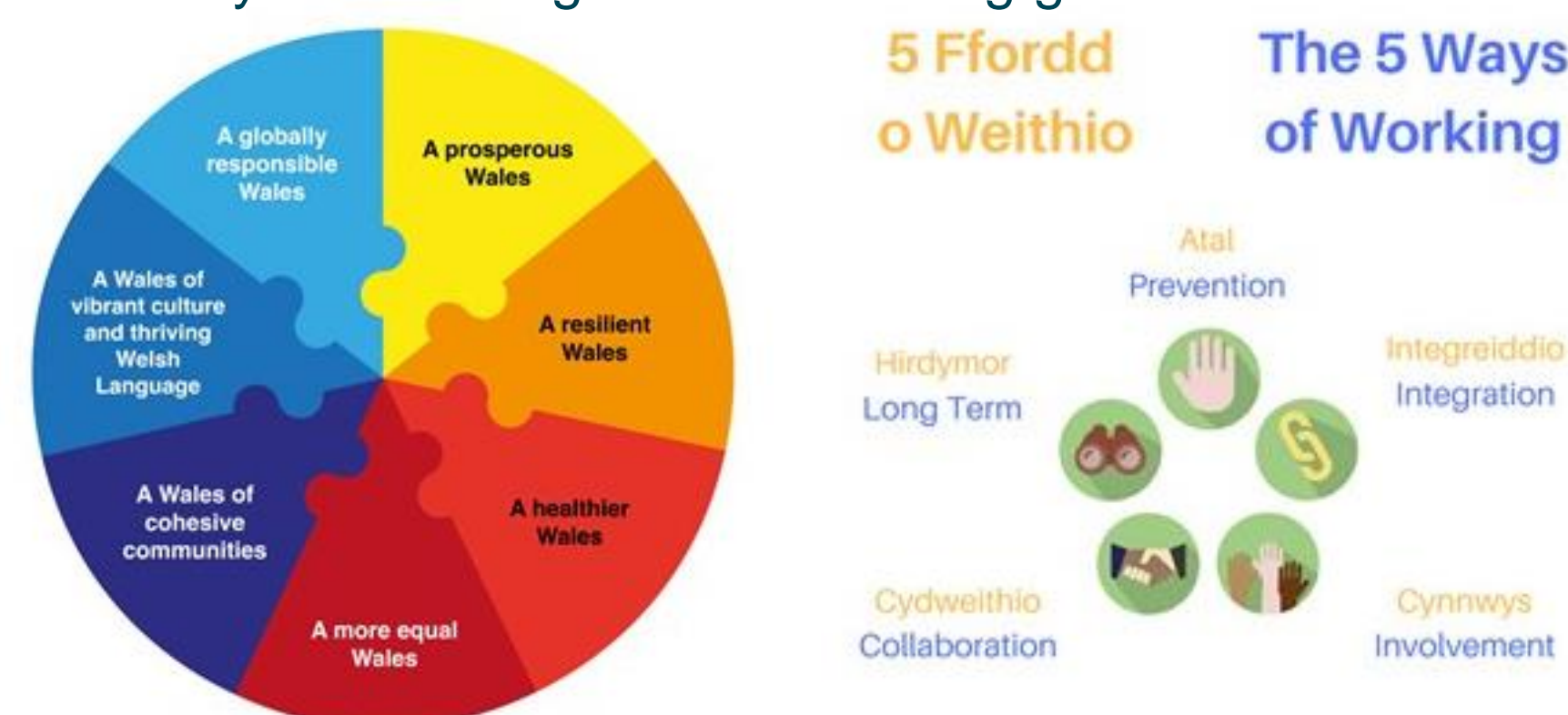
- The Act is the Welsh Government's fourth Sustainable Development Strategy since its commitment to sustainable development

| Welsh Government Sustainable Development Legislation | Year |
|---|------|
| Government of Wales Act, 1998 | 1998 |
| 'Learning to Live Differently' Sustainable Development Strategy | 2000 |
| 'Learning to Work Differently' Sustainable Development Strategy | 2004 |
| 'One Wales: One Planet' Sustainable Development Strategy | 2009 |
| The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 | 2015 |

- Creation of 19 Public Service Boards as a level of governance
 - 4 Statutory Members and invited members



- 5 Ways of Working and 7 Wellbeing goals



- Creation of a Future Generations Commissioner
- The Sustainable Development Principle
- National Indicators and Milestones



Research Methods

- Critical Geography
 - Government to Governance
 - Localism
- Case studies of 4 Public Service Boards
- Interviewing
 - Welsh Government Officials, Future Generations Office, Policy Support Officers in Local Authorities, PSB members



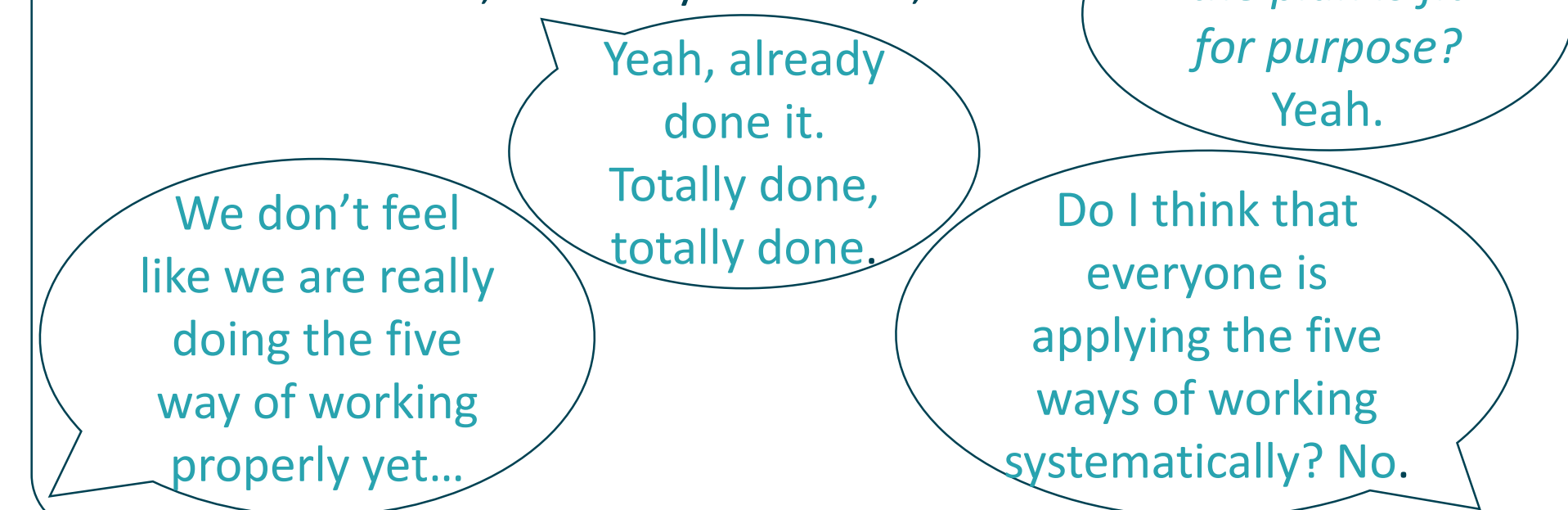
Early Findings (Ongoing)

Austerity

- Lack of funding and different uses of the £25,000
- Public Service Boards vs. Regional Partnership Boards

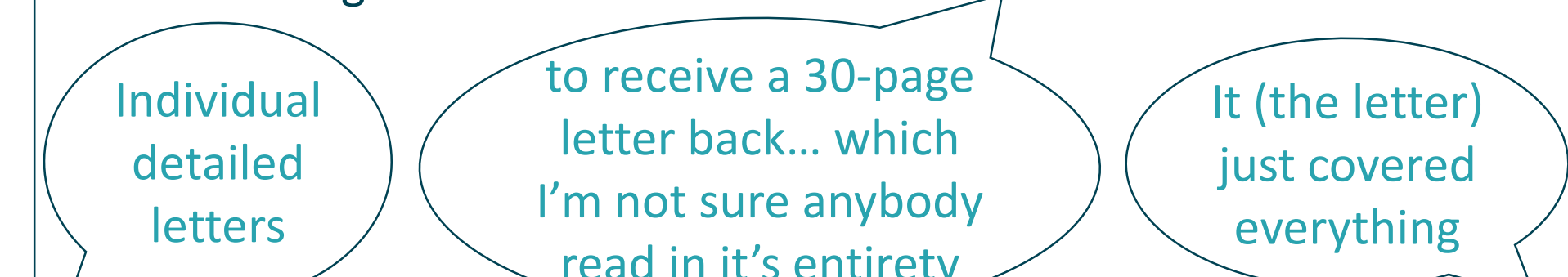
Varying Involvement

- Local authorities, statutory members, etc.



Relationship between Stakeholders

- Tension e.g. Letter from Future Generations Commissioner



Further Research

- Continue interviewing
- Academic Journal article and blog
- Event bringing together stakeholders to discuss implementation

References:

Brundtland, Gro Harlem. (1987) *Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report)*.
 Davies, Haydn. (2016). 'The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Duties or Aspirations?' *Environmental Law Review*, 18(1):41-56
 Göpel, Maja. (2012). *Ombudspersons for Future Generations as Sustainability Implementation Units*. Retrieved from: <https://sf.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/SDG%204%20Ombudspersons%20for%20Future%20Generations%20Thinkpiece.pdf>
 Wallace, Jennifer. (2019). 'Wales: Wellbeing as Sustainable Development', *Wellbeing and Devolution*, Cham: Springer International Publishing:73-101