**Social Care Research and Development Strategy for Wales 2017-22**

**Consultation dates - 26 June until 21 August 2017**

**Introduction and background**

Recent Welsh Government policy emphasises that research evidence needs to play a greater role in the organisation and delivery of social care[[1]](#footnote-1),[[2]](#footnote-2). Wales’ legislation emphasises high quality and sustainable social care provision that puts people’s well-being at the centre of their care and promotes prevention and early intervention. Excellent social care research supports practitioners, decision makers and policy makers by providing them with the evidence they need to achieve this.

The time is right for:

* a national co-ordinated approach to building social care research and development capacity
* realising the positive impact of research and development on social care policy, practice and improvement
* strengthening the links between social care research, social care policy, practice and improvement.

Historically, social care research and development in Wales has not been managed and shared centrally, and has lagged behind health research in quantity and quality.

There are many strengths we can build on:

* the quality of social care research in Wales
* the strength of the social care improvement agenda
* Welsh Government’s commitment to giving people voice and control over care and support.

To realise Welsh Government’s aspirations, social care research and practice need to be brought closer together. This will mean research evidence has a greater influence on social care, and social care and the public will have a greater influence on research. To achieve this we need:

* more public and practice involvement in social care research and in setting its agenda;
* better use of existing evidence and data;
* improved communication and relationships between social care research and practice;
* to develop the social care workforce’s research skills and their organisational cultures;
* to expand the quality and quantity of social care research in Wales.

Social Care Wales has been established to lead in regulation, workforce development and service improvement for social care providers. This is a unique opportunity to work towards the goals above. We have developed close working relationships with Health and Care Research Wales and the organisations it funds, including the Wales School for Social Care Research. This draft Social Care Research and Development Strategy for Wales has been developed by a Sub Group of people from those organisations and from social care practice, Welsh universities, local and national government, umbrella organisations, and the public. It is designed to formally link social care practice and research through shared and mutually agreed actions, responsibilities, and accountability.

The strategy looks at five main areas:

**Focus area 1** – Involving the public in social care research

**Focus area 2 –** Research priorities

**Focus area 3 –** Using existing and routinely collected data

**Focus area 4 –** Developing the workforce andorganisations

**Focus area 5 –** Communication and use of research

These are the areas we’ve identified as critical to moving forward the social care research and development agenda in Wales. Within each Focus area are a number of objectives we need to work towards to make significant progress.

**Asking for your views**

We are asking for your views on three main issues:

* Are these the right areas? Are there other areas we may have missed?
* Are these the right objectives in each? Are there others we might have missed?
* We are keen to hear other comments you have about the strategy.

This strategy is relevant to:

* **Organisations that use and produce social care research**
* **Social work and social care practitioners**
* **Social services and social care providers**
* **Social care researchers**
* **Welsh Universities**
* **National and local government**
* **Third sector social care organisations**
* **Umbrella groups**
* **The public, including service users and carers**
1. Does the strategy address the main factors that will improve the quality, quantity and use of social care research in Wales? Agree – most; agree – some; disagree – most)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agree - all or most** | **Agree- some** | **Disagree – all or most** |
|  |  |  |

1. If you have concerns about something the document suggests to do, or do not support something, please tell us about it below.

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| --- | --- |
| **Proposal** | **Your Concerns** |
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1. The strategy contains five main areas. Do we need any additional areas? If so, please tell us below.

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1. Within each area, we’ve listed a number of specific objectives. We’ve identified these as goals needed to progress in each area. How well do the objectives capture these goals?

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| **Focus Area** |  **We describe all necessary objectives** | **We describe most of the necessary objectives**  | **We describe few of the necessary objectives**  | **We describe none of the necessary objectives**  |
| 1. Involving the public in social care research  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Research priorities |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Using existing and routinely collected data |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Developing the workforce and organisations  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Communication and use of research |  |  |  |  |

1. If you have said that we need additional objectives, please tell us what they are below.

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1. Do you have any other comments?

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1. Please give your name, address, organisation, and the perspective you represent (if any):

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1. I am responding as a/an (please tick one):

Service user or former service user

Social care organisation

Family member or carer

Member of the public

Social care and social work practitioner

Member of local government staff

Member of Welsh Government staff

Member of NHS staff

Member of third sector organisation

Private sector care provider

Organisation with an interest in social care

Higher education institution

Other research organisation (non-higher education institute)

Other

1. Sustainable Social Services [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales), 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)