



Gofal Cymdeithasol **Cymru**
Social Care **Wales**

Social care research and development strategy for Wales 2018-2023

Implementation plan

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Introduction

In February 2018, Social Care Wales published the *Social care research and development strategy for Wales 2018-2023* in partnership with Health and Care Research Wales. This document outlines the plan for putting the strategy into practice. The plan has been prepared by the Research Strategy Implementation Group.

The research strategy's vision is:

“For Wales to be internationally renowned for its excellent social care research, and for this research to be used to support the people of Wales by informing and improving social care policy and practice, for adults and for children and young people.”

The strategy outlines a number of steps we will need to take to help make this vision a reality, such as improving research capacity and capability in Wales, and helping care professionals understand what works well to improve care and support.

Guiding principles

This implementation plan includes a number of guiding principles. It also emphasises the need for the main partners involved in the social care sector in Wales to work together on an approach that addresses the main issues in social care practice, using evidence about good practice and developing associated practice guidance.

The implementation will support the goals of the Welsh Government's A Healthier Wales, a plan that sets out a vision of a “whole system approach to health and social care” that's focused on well-being and prevention. This means we will support research activity that look at research questions that will help make these goals a reality.

The project will also include a scoping exercise to identify opportunities to make better use of technology in the sector, and how this might be helped by research and development activity in Wales.



Aim

By 2023, the implementation of the research strategy will have delivered:

- More high-quality opportunities for the public to be involved and to have a say in the processes of how social care research is developed, designed and put into practice
- Better ways of working that build and sustain mutually respectful and productive relationships between researchers, practitioners, and the public
- Research which is tackling the real issues facing the delivery and experience of care and support in Wales
- More involvement from the public, people who use care and support, and carers in developing and producing social care research, as well as better interaction between researchers and the social care sector
- Research that tackles the real issues facing the provision and experience of care and support in Wales
- A workforce that's more capable of developing and producing effective research, and applying research to their practice
- Effective communication that keeps people informed and engaged with research
- An accurate picture of care and support that draws upon relevant data sources, as well as predictions for future care needs and demand.

To achieve this vision, the research strategy and implementation plan are based around five focus areas that will help us make sure that Wales has the systems and structures in place to support the strategy's vision and long-term goals.

The five focus areas are:

- Involving the public in social care research
- Research priorities
- Use of existing and routinely collected data
- Developing the workforce and organisations
- Communicating and using research

The research strategy identified 16 additional areas for action to help us make sure we have the systems and structures in place to support putting it into practice. These actions have been incorporated into the plan's principles, as well as into the five focus areas' outputs.



Project governance

Establishing a clear plan for making decisions about social care research and deciding who is responsible for putting the research strategy into practice is vital to the plan's success. Figure 1 shows the groups involved in making the strategy happen. Here are the responsibilities of each team:

Improvement Committee

This is one of the committees of Social Care Wales's Board. It supports and advises the organisation's Board and chief executive on matters to do with research, development and improvement of social care.

The Social Care Research and Development Strategic Co-ordination Group

This group, which was set up by Health and Care Research Wales, is made up of representatives from Health and Care Research Wales, Social Care Wales, the Wales School for Social Care Research, social care providers, local authorities, members of the public, and research institutions and universities. The group will advise the Improvement Committee on putting the strategy into practice.

Implementation team

The team is responsible for putting the strategy into practice and will include representatives from Social Care Wales, Health and Care Research Wales, and the Wales School for Social Care Research, as well as members of the public, social care providers and representatives from local authorities.

This team will:

- make sure the roles and responsibilities of the main partners in putting the strategy into practice are clear

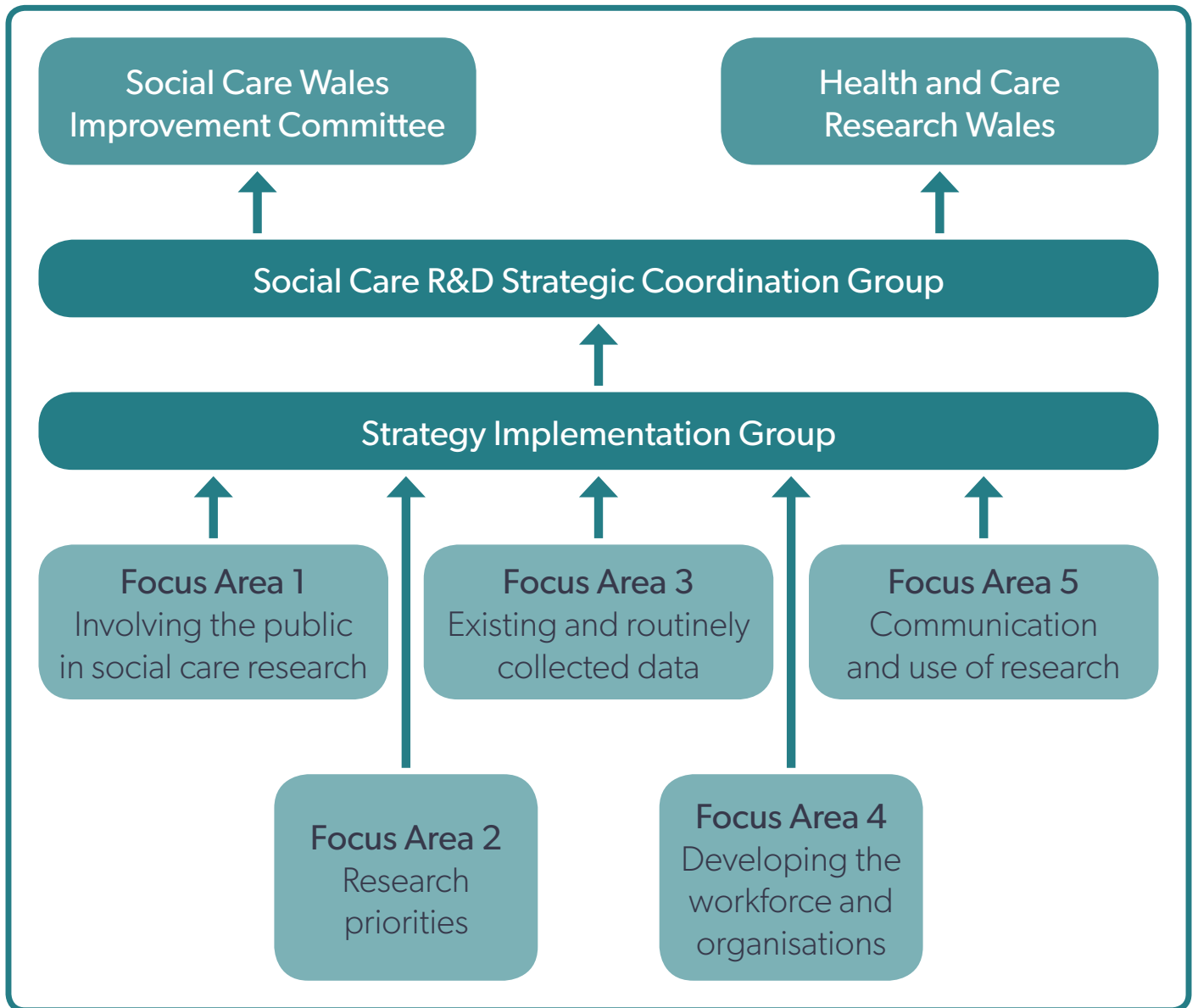
- develop a plan for funding the first five years of the strategy and making the most effective use of current sources of research funding
- check emerging policy developments and opportunities, and think about how they will affect the research strategy and implementation plan
- monitor the progress of the implementation plan in achieving its goals
- review the progress of each focus area and make sure the activities in each are aligned to the overall plan
- produce an annual progress report.

The team will meet every two months for the first six months of the project. After six months, the team will decide how often the group should meet for the rest of the project.

Each focus area will have its own working group, each made up of representatives from research institutions, funders, local authorities, social care providers and members of the public.



Figure one: The project’s governance structure



Focus area 1: Involving the public in social care research

Project lead: Health and Care Research Wales (the Research and Development Division of Welsh Government), with the Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre

1. Aim

By 2023:

- the Welsh public will be more familiar with social care research and its value
- the Welsh public will have more opportunities to be involved in, and to have a say in, how social care research is prioritised, funded, developed, designed and put into practice
- all Health and Care Research Wales (and Social Care Wales, where appropriate) activity will incorporate and align with the new National Standards for Public Involvement in Research.

2. Objectives

The focus area has four objectives:

- Develop a social care research culture that involves the public, people who use care and support, and carers in a real and meaningful way. We will involve these groups in developing social care research questions, deciding how research is carried out, and deciding how research is communicated and used.
- Help the research and social care sectors share and build upon good practice examples of involving the public, people who use care and support, and carers in social care research.
- Look into good practice examples of involving the public, people who use care and support, and carers in choosing and agreeing priority areas for social care research.
- Work with others to develop communication strategies about the benefits and purpose of

involving the public, people who use care and support, and carers in social care research. The communication strategies will consider the use of different media.

3. Overview

An early task for this plan is to assess whether the new *National Standards for Public Involvement in Research*¹, which aim “to improve the quality and consistency of public involvement”, will help us accomplish its goals.

A pilot of the National Standards was launched in the UK in March 2018 to test six standards:

- inclusive opportunities
- working together
- support and learning
- communications
- impact
- governance.

The Wales School for Social Care Research and the Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research (CADR) are one of 10 National Standards “test beds” tasked with testing the standards.

Health and Care Research Wales will review its internal processes – such as, how the public is involved in awarding grants and infrastructure awards – to make sure they meet the standards. Health and Care Research Wales will also expect the bodies it funds to adopt the standards.

Social Care Wales will lead focus area 2 (research priorities), which overlaps significantly with this focus area.

1. [sites.google.com/nih.ac.uk/pi-standards/home](https://www.sites.google.com/nih.ac.uk/pi-standards/home)

4. Outputs

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Embed public involvement in the practice and processes of Health and Care Research Wales, and Social Care Wales	Health and Care Research Wales (R&D Division) Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre Social Care Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the National Standards for Public Involvement into the ethos of Health and Care Research Wales's and Social Care Wales's research funding and commissioning • Build the standards into Health and Care Research Wales's funding documents, as well as its review and decision-making panels for infrastructure and grant funding applications • Make sure Health and Care Research Wales incorporates the standards into the ways in which it monitors and seeks feedback from the bodies it funds • Continue to work with partners in the UK to develop co-ordinated approaches to promoting and sharing the standards 	2018-2021
Help and empower more people to become involved in research	Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop plans to promote awareness and understanding across Wales of the role the public can play in social care research, and put those plans into action • Support a national research community that's inclusive and involves the public. Proactively recruit to the community, and continue to improve the ways in which the public and researchers can get involved in research • Map and develop ways to make the best use of communities that involve the public • Provide training on how to effectively involve the public in research, that is assessed against the National Standards for Public Involvement • Turn the Health and Care Research Wales Directory into a resource the public can use to find opportunities to get involved in research 	2019-2023
Develop communication and engagement plans across Wales to increase awareness and understanding of social care research	Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place a plan to promote the benefits and value of involving the public in social care research • Develop new methods and approaches for engaging with the public and communities • Share best practice with the research centres funded by Health and Care Research Wales and the research community 	2018-2020

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Develop a process that involves the public in deciding research priorities	Social Care Wales Health and Care Research Wales (R&D Division, Welsh Government) Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with Social Care Wales to design and put in place a clear and accessible approach for developing and agreeing Health and Care Research Wales’s social care research funding priorities • Encourage and help the public get involved in identifying and prioritising research activities funded by Health and Care Research Wales (for example, by connecting with forums, groups and networks, and/or adopting a model that sets out how to involve the public in deciding research priorities) 	2018-2023
Show the value of involving the public	Health and Care Research Wales (R&D Division, Welsh Government) Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make changes to the way Health and Care Research Wales asks for, captures, monitors and evaluates the data and activities of the bodies it funds that show how they are involving the public. This will improve the way in which we assess and monitor the impact of public involvement in social care research 	2018-2023

Focus area 2: Research priorities

Project lead: Social Care Wales

1. Aim

By 2023, the process for deciding and agreeing the social care research priorities will provide a basis for an energised and vibrant social care research community in Wales that actively shares research ideas and projects with the public, practitioners, researchers and policymakers.

2. Objectives

- Make the best use of limited social care research resources by concentrating on Social Care Wales's strategic priority areas:
 - care and support at home
 - children who are looked after
 - dementia
- Through Social Care Wales's leadership, develop and put into place a standard model for deciding and agreeing future research priorities that's accessible, transparent and involves people.

3. Overview

The current research priorities for social care in Wales are:

- dementia
- children who are looked after
- care and support at home.

The priorities were set by the Minister for Health and Social Services when he established Social Care Wales. In future, research ideas will be developed and prioritised through a more transparent, inclusive and systematic process.

There are many potential benefits to improving this process, such as:

- making sure citizens have a say in how public

money is spent on research

- making the most of limited capacity and resources
- informing future grant priority areas
- guiding future funding strategies.

One of the process's main features will be the use of a digital platform to improve transparency, accessibility and participation. Social Care Wales will also pay attention to engaging with people who are not digitally connected. The platform will be used to gather, share and rank research ideas, as well as for providing feedback and updates to participants and non-participants. (Initial discussions are underway with VocalEyes², a platform designed to support participation, engagement, community decision-making and crowd-sourcing).

This process will draw from elements of existing, credible approaches to prioritising research. The ideas for the social care research priorities in Wales will be placed in one of four categories:

- national priorities and planning ahead
- strategic sector development
- policy and practice
- capacity development.

The criteria for assessing and ranking research ideas will be developed and agreed as part of the implementation process. The process will make use of the Knowledge Mobilisation Pathway (in appendix 2 of the research strategy) to identify where research has already been carried out. The process will include working with the main funding bodies to appropriately manage expectations around research activity.

2. <https://vocaleyes.org/>

4. Outputs

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Advisory group	Social Care Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly and ad hoc review meetings • Agreeing the project's scope and objectives (including the groups of workers to target and what 'research-mindedness' means). 	2018
Developing and piloting the process for deciding and agreeing research priorities	Social Care Wales Health and Care Research Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree policies with funding bodies for how specific research funding and commissioning processes will be linked to, and influenced by, research priorities • Design and test the approach based on an existing proven methodology • Identify and test a digital platform for collecting, scoring and ranking research ideas. 	2018-2019
Wider participation Develop scoring and ranking process	Social Care Wales Health and Care Research Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with groups, such as practitioners and third sector organisations • Reach out to people who tend to be under-represented in the development and production of research, with a focus on people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People who use care and support who are from socially deprived areas - Children and young people - People with learning disabilities - People who are digitally excluded or who choose not to be online - People who prefer to communicate through the medium of Welsh. 	2019-2020
Use of research prioritisation as a way to develop a social care research community in Wales	Social Care Wales Health and Care Research Wales Wales School for Social Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up processes for supporting the two-way sharing of the social care research priorities and ideas in Wales, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For students and practitioners looking for research ideas for projects or to submit applications for postgraduate study - For researchers and research organisations (including higher education and third sector organisations) seeking feedback or testing ideas for research projects - For researchers to recruit steering and advisory groups to help advise on research studies - For Social Care Wales and Health and Care Research Wales to identify emerging themes and issues that can be considered when deciding and agreeing future research priorities. 	2020-2023

Focus area 3: Understanding social care in data

Project lead: Social Care Wales

1. Aim

The data set will be the main resource the regional partnership boards use to develop their population needs assessments in 2020.

We will then analyse the data to gather intelligence that will help us and the regional partnership boards understand how we can improve care and support. It will also help us evaluate, monitor and understand the relationship between local service provision and the outcomes for people who use care and support.

2. Objectives

- Set up a social care data access and use working group to bring together the main players in the social care sector who have an interest or role to play in this area.
- Work with SAIL to explore the feasibility and means of linking social care data into the SAIL Databank, as well as data from other sectors, such as education, public health and housing.
- Set up a National Social Care Data Set for Wales that consists of data drawn from a range of existing and planned data sets that are collected on a regular basis. Social Care Wales will manage the site, which will house this combined social care data.

3. Overview

The new social care data set aims to provide a five-tier source of data:

- Demand for care and support – population needs
- Supply of care and support, and the workforce
- How services are performing, including financial data

- Data that provides more context, such as data about population, economy and housing
- Outcomes – effect of interventions on people who use care and support.

This focus area will use the following activities to support the improved availability and use of social care data in Wales.

First, we will work closely with the regional partnership boards to understand what they need to help them develop their population needs assessment and area plans. We will use this information to help us design a dataset that meets their needs. The population needs assessments have to be reviewed every five years, and the next phase will begin in 2019. Our aim is to provide useful data that helps the regional partnership boards produce their assessments.

Second, we will improve the dataset by incorporating the Daffodil Cymru portal. This portal pulls together information from different research sources and makes projections, which are mostly based on population figures, that show what the care needs in Wales may be over the next 20 years. Once Daffodil Cymru has been transferred to us, we will look to develop it in the future so it can provide more sophisticated projections and scenario modelling. The information that is currently held in Daffodil Cymru will be fed into the population needs assessments.

Finally, we will work with the Welsh Government on its project to automate the linking of data (the Welsh Government-ESRC Dataflow Development Project). The project involves installing automated “data-linking engines” in six local authorities to automate the transfer of data from a range of local authority systems into SAIL. Social care services data is among the data sets being targeted and our data advisory group will be involved in agreeing the order in which the data is transferred for social care.

4. Outputs

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Advisory group, which makes important decisions about the data set's development	Social Care Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly meeting of the advisory group First meeting held in April 2018. 	2018 onwards
Social care data added to the SAIL data bank	Social Care Wales Welsh Government KAS SAIL Wales School for Social Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial with six local authorities to link social care service provision data with SAIL Work with Welsh Government KAS to agree a set of social care indicators to include in SAIL Work with Welsh universities, including the Wales School for Social Care Research, to trial the social care data from SAIL. 	2019-2020
Better information about people who use care and support, and the outcomes measured, are included in the data set	Social Care Wales Wales School for Social Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with SAIL to pilot ways of collating additional social care data to give us a better understanding of who is using social care and what the future needs will be across Wales, as well as how well care and support services are helping people live the life they want. 	2020
Improve the national social care data set for Wales	Social Care Wales Data Cymru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish the new data set in beta version Agree a proposal with Data Cymru during 2018-19 and 2019-20 to develop the data set Follow open data principles when using and publishing data as part of the data set. 	2018
Customer requirements for data	Social Care Wales Data Cymru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a workshop with the regional partnership board network to find out what they need Understand the regional partnership boards' needs and agree a set of actions. 	2018
Add new data to the data set	Social Care Wales Data Cymru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with CIW to get data about the workforce and agree a process to incorporate it into the data set Add social care service local authority expenditure data to the data set from the Welsh Government Revenue Outturn (RO) form data Link to appropriate health and population data from sources, such as the ONS and Public Health Wales Work with the Welsh Government to improve the quality of social care data and improve confidence in the data. 	2019 and 2020

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Incorporate Daffodil Cymru into the data set	Social Care Wales Data Cymru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daffodil Cymru to be incorporated into the data set • Agree a process with the Welsh Government, IPC and Data Cymru to keep the current set of indicators and predictions within Daffodil. 	2018
Incorporate new set of projections into Daffodil Cymru	Social Care Wales Data Cymru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree what new information can be added to the current data • Agree new indicators to be added to estimate the future needs for care and support. 	2019 and 2020
Develop and publish standard reports	Social Care Wales Wales School for Social Care Research Data Cymru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the relationship between the demand for services, service provision and outcomes for people who use care and support • Analyse the main data indicators to gather intelligence about the social care sector. 	2020 and 2021

Focus area 4: Developing the workforce and organisations

Project lead: Wales School for Social Care Research and Social Care Wales, partnering with Health and Care Research Wales, the Research Design and Conduct Service (RDSCS) and the Health and Care Research Wales Support Centre.

1. Aim

By 2023 in Wales there will be:

- More social care organisations using research evidence as part of their practice and day-to-day decision-making.
- More, strengthened, and productive links between social care practitioners, social care organisations and researchers.
- More skilled social care researchers with stronger links between social care researchers, practice and the public.

2. Objectives

- Through a range of actions, develop skilled social care practitioner-researchers who can bridge academic, and practice and policy worlds. We will also develop practitioners in the workplace who carry out research to inform practice and service improvement.
- Develop a skilled workforce of national and international standing that can carry out high-quality research.
- Through the work of the Wales School for Social Care Research (DEEP programme) and the ExChange model, help develop relationships between research institutions and policy and practice settings to support the development of a research-minded culture within social care organisations.
- Help develop tools and processes for social care practitioners to help them carry out research, and engage with evaluation and research in their setting.

- Help develop incentives to encourage practitioners to get involved in research, drawing on examples in clinical health research, such as time awards for NHS clinicians.
- Actively support and showcase the value of social care research and reflect this in the funding for social care research.
- Review ethics and permissions processes for social care researchers.

3. Overview

This focus area sets out plans for building and strengthening the research and development capacities of the social care workforce and social care organisations in Wales. As we discuss in more detail in the strategy, while there are opportunities to realise the ambition of improving social care evaluation and research, and the use of this evidence in practice, there are also challenges due to limited resources and time pressures.

The implementation of this focus area is based around three themes:

- Identifying opportunities and addressing gaps in organisational systems, structures and processes that may help the social care workforce and organisations use research evidence as part of their practice and day-to-day decision-making.
- Supporting existing initiatives in Wales that are proven to be effective in improving research-mindedness and supportive organisational cultures.
- Setting up new research-related workforce and organisational development initiatives where there is a clear need.

4. Outputs

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Advisory group	Wales School for Social Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly and ad hoc review meetings • Agreeing the scope and objectives of the project (including the groups of workers to target and a common understanding of research-mindedness). 	August 2018
Knowledge of organisational barriers and opportunities Organisational and workforce development action plans	Social Care Wales Wales School for Social Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid assessment of current systems, structures and organisational processes for supporting research-mindedness • Identifying gaps and opportunities • Developing strategies and plans for addressing gaps and promoting opportunities. 	2018-2019
Continuing initiatives in Wales that support research-mindedness and supportive organisational cultures	Social Care Wales Wales School for Social Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for programmes in Wales such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEEP (Developing Evidence Enriched Practice) - ExChange events • Continuing Professional Education and Learning (CPEL) programme to support research sharing and use of research skills in the workplace by CPEL participants • DEEP and Social Care Wales jointly develop a web-based resource for narrative- and dialogue-based learning in social care. 	Ongoing through the life of the strategy 2018-2019
Research capacity building that links to social care practice	Health and Care Research Wales Wales School for Social Care Research Social Care Wales Research Design and Conduct Services Health and Care Research Support and Delivery Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care Research Capacity Building Grants Scheme administered by the Wales School for Social Care Research • Research development workshops and organisational support provided by the Wales School for Social Care Research • Research Design and Conduct Services grant development workshops • Annual Social Care PhD Studentship scheme • Support programme for Social Care PhD students as a "community of practice" • Awarding social care research projects through competitive calls • Promote the Support and Delivery Centre functions and services via the Research Route map to social care organisations and the workforce. 	2018-2019 Ongoing through the life of the strategy

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Guidance around social care research ethics in Wales	Health and Care Research Support and Delivery Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear and consistent guidance/ process for obtaining independent Research Ethics Committee approvals for social care studies. 	2018-2019
Developing the social care workforce's skills in critical appraisal and social care research methods	Research Design and Conduct Services Health and Care Research Support and Delivery Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the opportunities for social care research methods training in Wales • Promote research training already available from the Support and Delivery Centre National training programme for the social care workforce • Develop activities to support research-related critical appraisal skills for social care practitioners and policy makers. 	Ongoing through the life of the strategy
New initiatives where there is a clear need	Implementation partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forming a network of research champions in social care organisations in Wales - A practice/academia exchange scheme and research incentive schemes. 	To be confirmed

Focus area 5: Communicating and using research

Project lead: Social Care Wales and Wales School for Social Care Research

1. Aim

By 2023, there will be regular, supportive and productive communication between researchers and social care groups, underpinned by:

- Sharing strategies that are based on “what works” to encourage practitioners to use research evidence in their practice
- Defined research and evidence topic areas
- A mix of (two-way) communication methods for different audiences and styles
- Named researchers in Welsh institutions who are actively engaged in supporting the sector with evidence and advice
- A co-ordinated approach between partner organisations.

2. Objectives

- Through the Wales School for Social Care Research and Social Care Wales, develop and support ongoing formal arrangements for social care researchers, leaders and practitioners to communicate regularly to forge stronger links between research and practice.
- Adopt the Knowledge mobilisation pathway (included in appendix 2 of the research strategy) as standard working practice in strategy development, making sure that all new Social Care Wales strategies are developed following a review of the best available review evidence.
- Develop a range of strategies to help practitioners and organisations access research evidence, including SCIE resources that are relevant to Wales and Welsh legislation.

- Publish guidance that encourages and supports social care organisations to develop research-mindedness and improve the sharing of research knowledge.

- Help social care researchers plan for maximum use and impact, and help researchers effectively communicate their research results to the practice sector (following the recommendations of the Academic Health Sciences Collaboration (AHSC) Knowledge Transfer Task and Finish Group to Health and Care Research Wales).

3. Overview

The aim of this area of work is to develop, test and embed a range of complementary approaches to two-way communication that reach a variety of partners and other groups.

We therefore plan to test lots of different communication methods, including digital and non-digital forms of networking and communication. The focus area will draw upon the latest thinking and evidence about how to embed a “what works” approach in social work and care policy and practice.

4. Outputs

Outputs	Who is responsible for achieving it?	Major activities	Dates
Advisory group	Wales School for Social Care Research and Social Care Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly and ad hoc review meetings Scope the project and set some objectives. 	August 2018
Develop and implement a strategy that builds on the latest thinking on sharing research and transferring evidence into practice	Social Care Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the current thinking on “what works” to share research findings and transfer evidence into practice Develop and implement cost-effective and practical strategies for practitioners and organisations to help them access research evidence, including SCIE resources, and online databases and resources relevant to Wales and Welsh legislation Review the potential of sharing initiatives that already exist, in and outside Wales Promote examples of social care organisations showing research-mindedness in their practice. 	2018-2019
High level research sharing and communication strategy agreed with partners	Social Care Wales Wales School for Social Care Research Health and Care Research Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree the respective roles of each organisation in sharing research Complementary range of communication formats and channels Consider resource availability and constraints 	2018-2019
Support for ongoing arrangements for researchers, leaders and practitioners to communicate regularly to develop stronger links between research and practice	Social Care Wales Wales School for Social Care Research Health and Care Research Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the most of existing programmes, such as ExChange and DEEP Adopt and promote the Knowledge Mobilisation Pathway in Social Care Wales and with main partners Promote and support the use of the social care dataset for research. 	Ongoing
Help social care researchers in Wales plan for maximum impact and to effectively communicate their research results to practitioners*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support social care researchers who are engaged in PhD work Engage with existing university REF impact structures to help social care researchers plan and measure their impact Explore the potential for raising awareness of how research contributes to social care practice and policy development, by making use of existing awards for good practice in social care. 	Ongoing

* Following the recommendations of the Academic Health Sciences Collaboration (AHSC) Knowledge Transfer Task and Finish Group to Health and Care Research Wales.

Implementation plan – Outputs and timescales

Focus area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1. Public involvement	Increase the Public Involvement community through our links with the HealthWise Wales platform (currently 20,000 members)					50,000 HealthWise Wales members are associated with a significant increase in the size of HCRW Public Involvement Community
	Develop and implement a communications strategy for promoting social care research, including making use of the mainstream media and existing public involvement and research conferences					
	Pilot of National Standards for Public Involvement at WSSCR/CADR	Roll out the National Standards for Public Involvement across Health and Care Research Wales				
2. Research priorities	Policies agreed with funding bodies on the links between research priorities, and funding and commissioning					
	Develop and test the prioritisation approach, using current research priorities					
	Digital platform for managing research ideas identified and tested	Participation widened to include other partners and under-represented groups		Develop a social care research community in Wales, established through active, two-way communication about research ideas and priorities		
3. Understanding social care with data			Including social care data in the SAIL databank			
	Improved social care data set for Wales					
	Transfer of Daffodil Cymru into the National Social Care Data Set		Develop Daffodil Cymru to feature new variables and projections			
				Incorporate new measures for care and support into the data set		
				Analyse the main data indicators to gather intelligence about the social care sector		

Focus area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
4. Developing the workforce and organisations	Knowledge of organisational barriers and opportunities, with organisational and workforce development action plans					
	Continuing existing initiatives with proven effectiveness in enhancing research-mindedness and supportive organisational cultures					
	Research capacity building that links to social care practice					
	Guidance around social care research ethics					
	Developing the skills of the social care workforce in research critical appraisal and social care research methods					
	New initiatives where there is a clear need					
5. Communicating research	Strategy, which builds on latest thinking on sharing research and transferring evidence into practice					
	Roles and responsibilities for sharing and communicating research agreed with partners					
	Communication systems and processes for social care researchers, leaders and practitioners to help develop much stronger links between research and practice					
	Help social care researchers in Wales plan for maximum impact, and effectively communicate their research results to the practitioners					