



# Consultation document

## A social care research and development strategy for Wales 2017-2022 - Summary

Consultation closes on 21 August 2017



# Summary

In Wales, we believe 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.

Wales's legislation places an emphasis on 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 can support the evidence base for practitioners to do this, as well as inform decision and policy makers.

There are many strengths we can build upon:

- 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 the care and support they receive.

By working with the public, people who use care and support, and their carers, we will develop a better understanding of what research needs to be done and how it can have a positive impact where it matters.

This national strategy aims to bring social care practice and research closer by sharing and agreeing actions, responsibilities and accountability.

The strategy looks at five areas:

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

We want to involve people with experiences as service users and carers. Their involvement is important in achieving high quality, useful and effective social care research.

## **Focus area 2** – Research priorities

We will make the best use of resources by concentrating efforts on the areas of:

- Care and support at home
- Looked after children, and
- Dementia

## **Focus area 3** – Use of existing and routinely collected data

Using routinely collected data can demonstrate gaps and trends by, bringing together existing data from a variety of sources beyond social care (i.e. health, housing and economic data) it also widens the opportunities to inform social care needs and areas for improvement.

#### Focus area 4 – Developing the workforce and organisations

We need to encourage new social care researchers, develop existing social care researchers and draw new researchers from other fields (e.g. psychology, public health or health economics) to a research career in social care. Social care workforce; practitioners and policy makers are to be encouraged to use research evidence and evaluations to support their practice or to improve service effectiveness.

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

A culture of research mindedness within social care environments is required, so that staff are both able and motivated to engage with research and make use of it. There is also a need to overcome the perception that individuals operate either as researchers or practitioners, but not both.

#### Our vision is:

**For Wales to be internationally renowned for its excellent social care research that supports the people of Wales by informing and improving social care policy and practice.**

Social care research will seek to develop knowledge in a broad range of areas, this breadth is shown in the diagram below.



#### Putting the strategy into practice

Alongside this strategy, there will be an implementation plan that looks at how we put the recommendations into practice. It will also identify the roles and responsibilities of partners involved, and the impact and outcome measures for the next five years.

For more information and to respond to the consultation, visit our website:  
<https://socialcare.wales/news-stories/have-your-say-on-social-care-wales-new-research-and-development-strategy-1>

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