Public Health Wales
Research Strategy Refresh

Dr. Alisha Davies
Head of Research and Development
“Information, research and evidence are the foundations of quality health policies”
(World Health Organization, 2017)

“The best research and innovation is driven by people with broad horizons and a global outlook”
(Prosperity for All, 2018)
1. Develop research skills of staff within Public Health Wales

2. Help to create new knowledge

3. Work in partnership with others

4. Effectively communicate what we know

To read the Research Strategy go to:
1. Building research capacity

- **Staff protected time:** Clinical Research Time Awards.
- **Dysgu@Lunch;** R&D workshops; PHANTOM
- **Research skills:** Workforce training and development needs assessments, programme developed, My Contribution guidance to support research objective setting
- Divisional R&D groups, peer-review process
- Specialty Lead (Dr Julie Bishop)
2. Generate new knowledge

- ACEs and WG investment to Cymru Well Wales and development of ACE Support Hub.
- £6.87 million funding from the Home Office for PHW, PCC and other organisations.
- Pump-prime grant funding (£10k) and R&D Division-funded practitioner-led call £40k.
3. Collaborative working

- Academic grants and collaborations
- National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research
- WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Wellbeing
- International Health Coordination Centre
- Police and Crime Commissioners, Cymru Housing Wales
4. Communicating research findings

- Research seminars and workshops
- Monthly R&D Newsletter
- Annual R&D Highlights report
- Research in Wales conference
- Social media, Facebook, Twitter (@phrwales)
- Help and advice, supporting staff to publish
- Infographics
By 2030, we will:
• have a **thriving** research and development **environment**, drawing from and contributing to international **evidence**, attracting **investment** and research **talent**
Who
Staff Survey (n=140)
Oct 2018

Stakeholders (n=30)
Sept '18 – Jan '19
Public Health Wales
Academia in Wales
Welsh Government
Independent Research Institutions
Public Health England
Public Health Agency, N Ireland
NHS Health Scotland

Workshops (Bangor and Cardiff)
Dec 2018
Public Health Wales
Academia
Public member
53 people
Reflecting on themes and where next?
Positive evaluation
What is a National public health organisation’s role in public health research?

...a Public Health Institute with a leading research programme

...Systems leadership, setting the agenda for population health challenges in Wales

...Collaboration with universities for research council funding. PHW should be a viable partner, having the capacity and skills to do so

...Leading the population health research across systems, Wales, internationally.
What are the characteristics of a research active public sector organisation?

Research agenda is at the forefront
- Systematic identification of priorities
- Visible
- Innovates
- Attracts external funding

Strategic in its approach to embedding and leading research
- Strategic links with academia
- Strategic links with industry
- Strategic links with other partners
- Strategic international links
- Balance ideas vs technical expertise
- Adequately resourced

Effects change - impact
- Purposeful
- Influences / thought leadership

People
Investment in people
- Support development of research interest and careers
- Multidisciplinary skills
- Visible research leads
- Celebrates success

Stakeholder interview, Workshops
Research across a spectrum

Evidence reviews

Population Surveys

Multi-disciplinary

Clinical trials

Routine data
Prioritise and focus

Staff

- Building our reputation through high quality, transparent research based on identified gaps, addressing and not only describing the problems by utilising our uniqueness (data/patients/public)
- Talent: support some 'blue sky' thinking
- Democratising and developing the agenda, including public engagement to inform policy and deliver strategic priorities.

Stakeholders

- Research at the forefront - value of research in organisation realised and protected.
- identify strategical areas to be involved in – focused on themes and assets in PHW, and build, identify opportunities.
- focus on strengths, where we can make a difference (policy, health protection).
What is PHWs offer to research?

Some examples of excellence but overall
• Very unclear
• Do not know
• “little visibility”
• Limited due to a lack of resources/capacity

What should it be?

Understand our assets
(Data, people – in depth knowledge of programmes/collaboration leads)

Translating academic rigor into practice

Inform public/policy/practice to make the right choices/solutions

Impact on policy practice
“work which will produce a change”

Spectrum

Accessible / facilitating

Attracting funding

Responsive (if capacity)

Visible
Opportunities to engage and thrive

- Link with research schools in Wales – real opportunities.
- Common goal – to make a difference to population health

Benefits
- IMPACT
- Ensure practice and policy are rooted in evidence
- Break down silos / Cross fertilisation of ideas
- Efficient use of resources/assets in Wales
- Sharing workstreams, partnerships
- Co-produce research programmes
- Staff development (teaching opportunities in academia)
Developing Capacity and Capability

Staff

- 70% want to develop skills
- 65% expressed barriers. Lack of
  o Opportunities and support
  o Protected time
  o Networking opportunities
  o Local research infrastructure;
  o Training in baseline research skills
  o Skills or confidence shortage
- Opportunity costs
- Research governance

Stakeholders

- Workforce is a key priority
- Competing priorities “research gets squeezed”
- Need
  o Funding / investment in capacity building
  o Talent and workforce development (specific areas genomics, bioinformatics, big data)
  o Infrastructure to support (running /writing grants expensive to do).
Generating the evidence needed to make a difference to population health
2019-2025
By 2030, we will have a thriving research environment, drawing from and contributing to the best international evidence, attracting diverse investment and employing research talent from around the world.
RE Lead SP7 Building knowledge

RE Lead SP1 Wider determinants

RE Lead SP2 Mental well-being and resilience

RE Lead SP3 Healthy behaviours

RE Lead SP4 Health Future (Early years)

RE Lead SP5 Health protection

RE Lead SP6 Sustainable Health care system

RE Team

Short Term (1-2yrs)

Medium Term (3-5yrs)

Divisions and Directorates
Academic partners – Strategic Opportunities Panel

Public

Commercial and Industry

Health Boards

Voluntary sectors

Public sectors
Timeline

• March 2019 Internal review and support
• April 2019 Board approval
• April 2019 Cross-organisational implementation plan, early adopters

Year 1
• Review progress and business requirements
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