Supporting the care home community through research during pandemics and beyond

@EnrichCymru  #CADRConf2021
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Overview

**Past** development of a research network in Wales

**Present** opportunities and challenges for care home research in the current pandemic

**Future** opportunities and development
A Time for Change!
What is ENRICH Cymru?

A national network for the care home community in Wales to design and participate in more health and social care research.

Born in Wales in 2018 with a specific focus on:

➢ The needs of care homes
➢ Collaborative, two-way partnerships
Relational Approach

- Importance of long-term relationships with care home providers through a research network (Lam et al., 2018)
- Relational capacity-building in care homes in the research context (Toms et al, 2020)
Why co-produce care home research?

To ensure:

- The most relevant questions and issues to the care home community are explored
- Participants are **INCLUDED** and able to understand the study resources
- Appropriate methods and measures are selected
Challenges & Opportunities

- Research progress across health and social care settings
- PRINCIPLE Trial
- PROTECT Trial
- Important questions:
  - Who sets the research agenda?
  - How can care homes contribute to the research agenda?
Older people living in care homes, and their friends and family, must be provided with opportunities to share their views and experiences with policy- and decision-makers to ensure that the things that matter most to residents are properly understood and shape care home policy on a national and local level. “
ENRICH Cymru’s evolving role in the 2020-21 pandemic

- **Advocacy role** to inform research in development for residents without capacity in care homes e.g. PRINCIPLE
- **Sense checking** resources e.g. NIHR ARC Top Tips
- **Supporting new research** e.g. PPE study
- **Communicating the value** of the role of research e.g. ‘Call to Action’ paper
- **Cascading information** about new and developing studies
“Our focus is to provide a range of programs and activities which enables the older age groups to creatively integrate safely into the wider community”.

Bethan Mascarenhas (Manager):
Welcome to the new team in Wales!

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Future Plans: A time for change!

- ENRICH Cymru Advisory Group
- Opportunities to co-create research  
  *e.g. ‘Rise up from Lockdown’*
- Blogs & accessible engagement with care homes
- Seminars on ‘hot topics’ including:
  *‘Exploring the evidence for care home visits in the UK, drawing on global evidence’*
- Teams channel for care homes to increase engagement

• Toms, G., Green, S., Orrell, A., & Verity, F. (2020). Building relational research capacity in care homes in the COVID-19 era: applying recognition theory to the research agenda. *Quality in Ageing and Older Adults*, 21(4), 229-239. [https://doi.org/10.1108/qaoa-09-2020-0042](https://doi.org/10.1108/qaoa-09-2020-0042), SU Repository: [https://cronfa.swan.ac.uk/Record/cronfa55518](https://cronfa.swan.ac.uk/Record/cronfa55518)


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