What matters to you?

Setting research priorities for the Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre

Professor Adrian Edwards (Director)
Dr Natalie Joseph-Williams (Core Team)

Health and Care Research Wales
Public Engagement & Involvement Forum
11.05.21
What have we learned from the COVID-19 pandemic?

• Research matters like never before - central to policy and practice in the pandemic

• From no evidence to too much evidence - challenges of staying up to date with rapidly available new evidence

• Research needs to move at the pace of the pandemic if it is to be useful

• Increasing need for rapid evidence synthesis and to help decision making

• Need to make sure the evidence is relevant to Wales - distinctive issues and priorities
The Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre (WC19EC)

- **Core Purpose**
  - Using research and evidence in managing the pandemic – helping to recover and rebuild
  - Understanding the impact of the pandemic on the health and wider needs of communities and people in Wales
  - Understanding the impact of the pandemic on the health and care delivery systems in Wales

Research quickly but rigorously undertaken, synthesised and made available to help decision making
The Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre (WC19EC)

• A £3m 24 month initiative - launched 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2021

• Director - Professor Adrian Edwards

• Core team - Dr Natalie Joseph-Williams, Dr Alison Cooper, Dr Micaela Gal, Dr Ruth Lewis

• Plus 6 Collaborating Partners

• Evidence synthesis, knowledge mobilisation and rapid research and evaluation – to improve the quality and safety of health and care delivery in Wales
Asking the right questions

• The list of interesting COVID-19 related questions that we could explore across health and social care could be limitless

• We need to prioritise questions that:
  • are answerable
  • address the most important needs of our population
  • will likely have an impact on the health and social care systems in Wales
  • can potentially make a difference, in a timely way
  • can support us to recover and rebuild
Research Question Prioritisation - Stakeholder Consultation

• Consult key stakeholders across health and social care in Wales to identify the most important evidence needs

• Stakeholder groups includes:
  • Patient and public groups
  • Health and care service providers
  • Health and care professionals
  • Social care
  • Policy Makers
  • Third sector
  • Health and care researchers
Research Question Prioritisation Process - Stakeholder Consultation

**STAGE 1 – SCOPE**

Stakeholder groups identify up to 10 ‘top research questions’ & rank in order of priority

**STAGE 2 – ASSESS**

- relevance to current or future COVID-19 context in Wales
  - importance of evidence gap
  - potential benefits
  - potential to make a difference
  - need for timely information

**STAGE 3 – AGREE**

Agree work programme of top evidence priorities (reviewed regularly)
HCRW Forum - Stakeholder Consultation

• **Before event** - asked to suggest up to 3 important areas of COVID-19 research

  1. Tell us the research question / area that you think is important

  2. Tell us why it is important

  3. Who could benefit from this research question or area being explored, and how these answers could help us to recover and rebuild as we move out of the pandemic?

• **Live** - help to rank the Top Ten Priority Areas

• **After the event** – which questions are most important?
Top 10 Priority Areas

1. Impact on mental health of the general population
2. Public's attitudes towards mask wearing, social distancing etc
3. Impact on care home residents
4. Impact on cancer screening and treatment
5. Impact on wellbeing of health and care staff
6. Best ways to reduce spread of COVID-19
7. Public’s attitudes towards vaccination
8. Impact on non-COVID-19 health conditions
9. Lessons that can be learned from changes made to improve health & care delivery
10. Impact on young people’s health and wellbeing