



CASCADE Infrastructure Partnership



Ymchwil Iechyd
a Gofal **Cymru**
Health and Care
Research **Wales**



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



SAIL
DATABANK



Centre for
Trials Research

Canolfan
Ymchwil Treialon



School of Psychology
Ysgol Seicoleg

Developing Social Care Research Capacity in Wales

Donald Forrester - @donaldforr
Professor of Child and Family Social Work
CASCADE Centre for Children's Social Care
Cardiff University



Overview

- The Problem
- Strengths/Opportunities
- The Programme
- The first 12 months
- The Future



CASCADE

Adult and Child Social Care

- A massive sector: random facts
 - 125,000 receive adult services in Wales
 - More than 1% of Welsh children are in care
 - 1.2 million people work in adult social care in England
 - Expenditure in England is c.£23 billion for adults and c.£9 billion for children



CASCADE

Chronic Underfunding

- Research investment compared to health (2009):
 - Per worker: £3428 vs £25
 - As percentage of spend: 0.31% vs 5.36%
- Substantial change since:
 - NIHR School for Social Care
 - Health and Care Research Wales Investment
 - WWCS
 - Other funders eg ESRC, NIHR etc.



CASCADE

Supply Problems...

- There is lots of **demand**
- And we now have (more) **funding**
- But struggling to get high quality research done... **supply** problem



CASCADE

Why?

- Lack of high quality research leadership
 - And what there is tends to be ageing
- Difficult getting practitioners to become researchers:
 - Motivation
 - Expertise
 - Practical know-how (how to become an academic)
- Or getting researchers to focus on social care
 - Lack of interest (too pragmatic?)
 - Lack of understanding eg key questions

What we are trying to do about it

- Build on what we have:
 - CASCADE Partnership
 - ExChange Network
 - ... and Wales is quite small
- To improve the pipeline of talent at key points



Three Key Points

1. Pathway to PhD:

- Publicising PhD opportunities
- Providing mentors to develop proposals

2. Pathway to PI (Principal Investigator):

- Support in bids for Fellowships to Health and Care Research Wales
- Groups and individual support for current Health and Care Research Wales call
- Then targeting other funders



CASCADE

3. Pathway to Professor (not real name):

- Mentoring provided on individual level

How is it going?

- Progress in getting more PhDs is slow
 - Planting seeds...
 - Also starting from position of strength – CASCADE has 50 associated PhD students already
- Support for bids is very strong... in children's social care
 - Despite extensively publicising re adult social care
- Four mentees at universities around Wales
 - Adult and children's care
 - Very positive development



CASCADE

But also

- Created and recorded series of research Masterclasses
- Looking at developing hubs at other universities
- Visiting practitioner/scholar scheme agreed
- Developing very large grant application to support capacity development across UK...



CASCADE

Conclusion

- Addressing supply chain problems turns out to be quite complicated...
- Very promising first 12 months
- ... But less so re adult social care
- And much, much more to be done...



CASCADE



CASCADE Infrastructure Partnership



Ymchwil Iechyd
a Gofal **Cymru**
Health and Care
Research **Wales**



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



Centre for
Trials Research

Canolfan
Ymchwil Treialon



School of Psychology
Ysgol Seicoleg