CASCADE Infrastructure Partnership
Developing Social Care Research Capacity in Wales

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Overview

• The Problem
• Strengths/Opportunities
• The Programme
• The first 12 months
• The Future
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
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
  - WWCSC
  - Other funders eg ESRC, NIHR etc.
Supply Problems…

• There is lots of demand

• And we now have (more) funding

• But struggling to get high quality research done… supply problem
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

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
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…
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 Infrastructure Partnership

Ymchwil lechyd a Gofal Cymru
Health and Care Research Wales

Ariannir gan Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by Welsh Government

SAIL Databank

Centre for Trials Research
Canolfan Ymchwil Treialon

Cardiff University

School of Psychology
Ysgol Seicoleg