

“Every day, research into health and social care makes a difference to the lives of people and to communities across Wales. I was delighted earlier this year to endorse the Health and Care Research Wales plan for 2022-2025, which sets out a clear and challenging agenda for improving health and care research, and ensures that Wales plays a full part in the research agenda across the UK and internationally.”

Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social
Services, Welsh Government

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- A plan, not a strategy – clear and concrete actions to improve health and care research
- Candid and honest about the state of play – no gilding the lilly
- Importance of selectivity – need to focus on strengths, areas of competitive advantage
- Setting high expectations of research rigour and quality – UK and international standards
- Raising our game – in HEIs, health boards/trusts, social care organisations, Welsh Government, and Health and Care Research Wales



Some highlights from the year...

- NHS R&D Framework – a clear statement of **what research excellence looks like’ within NHS organisations in Wales where research is embraced, integrated into services, and is a core part of the organisation’s culture** coproduced with NHS organisations, now a Welsh Health Circular and being used in annual reviews with health boards and trusts
- Launch of the **Health and Care Research Wales Faculty** – improving careers and opportunities for researchers in Wales, offering researcher development support and wide range of award schemes
- New **adult social care research centre – CARE** – with Cardiff University – building capacity and capability, responding to needs
- **Health and Care Research Wales Evidence Centre** – “good questions answered quickly” – evidence reviews and evaluations programme
- Improved **Health and Care Research Wales funding schemes** and **extended access to NIHR funding schemes**

...but there is still more to do

- **Clinical research delivery review** now underway – how can we improve efficiency, productivity and impact of clinical research in the NHS?
- **Infrastructure funding review** – how we provide some core funding to research groups and centres with a track record of success at a UK and international level
- **Catalytic investments** – like that in adult social care research – co-investing with partners in new/promising areas of research
- **Using data for research** – SAIL is a unique Welsh asset, but we need to get the right information governance and technical support in place for find/recruit/follow-up and new approaches to research
- **Playing our full part in UK wide research initiatives** – major deals with Moderna/BioNTech, UK Life Sciences Vision and more

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“I am so grateful to every single person that has contributed to Welsh research over the past year – from the researchers working in universities and health boards, to practicing clinicians of all professions, to managers and senior leaders including health board members, research nurses, social care practitioners and support and delivery staff making research happen – you have all played, and continue to play, a vital role in our research success.”

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