Social care research in Wales in 2023

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Well-known challenges

- Large inequalities between NHS and social care (funding, salaries, esteem, understanding)
- Social care sector is as large as NHS, but research activity many times smaller
- Research funding historically skewed
- Small and vulnerable research workforce
- Little research culture in social care organisations
- Where there is social care research, there are more qualitative skills than quantitative
But let’s be more positive!

Social care research infrastructure in Wales

- Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE)
  - Founded 2014
  - Now largest such centre in UK
- Centre for Adult Social Care Research (CARE)
- Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research (CADR)
- National Centre for Mental Health
Examples of ambitious studies

- High quality evaluations
- Data linkage studies
- Innovative qualitative research
- Innovative intervention research
- Social care economics
Essential supporting infrastructure

- Connections with practice (we need more!)
- Co-production of studies with people with lived experience of social care