

# Social care research in Wales in 2023

Jonathan Scourfield

Specialty co-lead for social care research



CASCADE



# 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



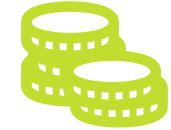
Data linkage  
studies



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



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