

Health and Care Research Wales awards 2025

Today's research, tomorrow's care – Celebrating 10 years of impact

General guidance

The Health and Care Research Wales Awards 2025 are open to **all health and social care researchers in Wales including health and social care professionals, allied health professionals and wider affiliated research teams.**

This year, you're welcome to submit your own entry or nominate someone you think should be recognised. To enter the awards, please complete and submit the entry form, using the guidance below.

Entries must be received by **09:00 on 8 September 2025.**

A panel of judges will shortlist each category, and the winners will be announced at the Health and Care Research Wales conference on **16 October 2025.**

All shortlisted entries will be required to create videos to be showcased at the conference. The Communications, Engagement and Involvement (CEI) team can provide support with creating videos, if needed.

The winner of each category will be awarded a bursary of up to £250 to attend a training course, conference, workshop or similar event to develop an area of their research skillset.

The bursary will only be available for claims presented to the CEI team before **6 March 2026.** We will not be able to process claims after this date.

If the award is not claimed by **6 March 2026**, it will be void.

Attendance at the conference

If submitting an application for yourself:

- you agree to register for and attend the Health and Care Research Wales conference or nominate a deputy.

If submitting a nomination:

- you agree to inform them that you will be nominating them
- you agree to inform them they will need to register to attend the conference
- nominations cannot be made anonymously

We will not be providing feedback for any award submissions.

For further information about the conference, please visit the [conference page](#) on our website

Health and social care impact award

This award recognises the difference Welsh research is making to people's everyday lives and the difference people can make to that research.

The judging panel will be looking for examples of real value for the public and patients, and/or impact on the NHS and social care services in Wales, including if appropriate financial, social and environmental sustainability have been considered.

To be eligible you must tell us about a project that was either active or completed in 2024-25 or that demonstrated impact during this time period.

Your written submission must include:

- The topic – why it is important, what the research need or knowledge gap was, were members of the public involved in the choice?
- The research – who did it, how it came about, who funded it, who was involved
- The impact – how the research has been used (or could be used) to change policy/practice and improve health and care and/or improve environmental, social, or financial impacts compared to standard practice
- Public involvement – how the inclusive involvement of the public (patients, carers, service users etc) has affected the impact of your research

To enter you will need to complete and [submit the entry form](#) on our website with a 250-word (max) summary of your project about how your research has or will make an impact.

Rising research star award

This award recognises those in the early stage of their health or social care research career who are already making an outstanding contribution to their field and/or developing as emerging leaders of the future.

In the context of this award, an early career researcher (ECR) is defined as someone currently at one of the following ECR stages:

- A. Doctoral
- B. Immediately post doctorate
- C. Transition to independent researcher

Your written submission must include:

- What research you are working on right now
- How has it contributed to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge
- Describe how you have developed others and maintained effective working relationships
- Your contribution to the wider research community
- What contribution have you made to research - users and audiences, and towards wider societal benefit
- How have or will you and your work make an impact in Wales and beyond
- What you have achieved so far in your research career (e.g. a completed project, an important finding, an impressive award based on your research, a prestigious fellowship award)
- How people have helped shape your research
- What you hope to achieve through your research in future years

To enter you will need to complete and [submit the entry form](#) on our website including a 250-word (max) summary of your research career so far and how your research will have an impact on the people in Wales.

Public involvement award

This award recognises the very best use of public involvement in a health or social care research study, using the [UK Standards for Public Involvement](#) as a measure.

The judging panel will be looking for examples where members of the public are involved in a research project, this could be:

- identifying and prioritising research
- helping write funding applications
- designing and managing the study
- undertaking research
- disseminating findings

- implementing the findings
- evaluating the impact

To be eligible you must be able to tell us about a project that was either active or completed in 2024-25.

Your submission must include:

- A description of how the [UK Standards for Public Involvement](#) informed the way the public involvement was planned and managed.
- How many people you involved and what lived experiences they had which was relevant to the research.
- How members of the public were involved in meaningful and relevant ways, including the tasks, meetings and activities people were asked to do.
- Evidence of the impact and difference of public involvement made to the research study and to the member(s) of the public involved.

To enter you will need to complete and [submit the entry form](#) on our website, including a 250-word (max) summary of your public involvement and how public involvement has impacted the research and the members of the public involved.

Embedding research in practice award

This award recognises the achievements of individuals or teams within their field of practice, where as a result of their achievements, research is embraced, integrated into services and is a core part of the organisation's culture.

The judging panel will be looking for examples where individuals or teams have contributed to their organisation embracing research by raising awareness of research amongst staff, supporting the development of research skills, raising the profile of research in the organisation and demonstrating the value and importance of research to particular groups of staff or senior leadership.

To be eligible you must tell us about an example that took place during 2024-25.

Your submission must include:

- The role(s) – who was involved? Individuals or teams? Professional and/or lay roles?
- Describe the activity which contributed to the organisation embracing research, including how this was developed and implemented
- Explain how this has led to research becoming integrated into everyday ways

- of working
- Describe the difference this has made, or it will make, to the organisation's research culture
- Explain how the learning is generalisable to other practice settings

To enter you will need to complete and [submit the entry form](#) on our website, with a 250-word (max) summary communicating how your achievement has or will make a difference to people living in Wales and the health and social care services provided to them.

Further contact information

If you have any queries regarding the awards or submitting an entry, please contact the Health and Care Research Wales awards team: healthandcareresearch@wales.nhs.uk