



Community Nursing Research  
Strategy for Wales

Strategaeth Ymchwil Nyrsio  
Cymunedol i Gymru



# COMMUNITY NURSING RESEARCH STRATEGY FOR WALES

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## PREFACE

In 2009, the Welsh Assembly Government published ‘A Community Nursing Strategy for Wales’ which set out the vision for the future services in Wales that will ‘provide holistic, seamless care with a nursing workforce that is flexible, adaptable and knowledgeable’ (WAG 2009).

The strategy addressed the wide range of professionals working in the community: Children’s Community Nurses, District Nurses, Health Visitors, Community Learning Disabilities Nurses, Community Mental Health Nurses, Midwives, Occupational Health Nurses, Palliative Care Nurses, Practice Nurses and School Nurses including nursing and midwifery registrants as well as support workers.

The vision contained within the strategy was to support and strengthen the delivery of community services for patients in or near to their own homes. The strategy has provided direction for service development, workforce planning, education and training. Most importantly and notable within the 43 recommendations was Recommendation 22 which relates to research:

*‘The Welsh Assembly Government will invest in the funding of research that will develop the evidence base for community nursing interventions, evaluation methods and the appropriate numbers and skill mix for workforce planning’.*

This gave community nurses in Wales the impetus to collaborate from all professionals groups to develop the Community Nursing Research Strategy for Wales. The vision of the strategy is to develop research in primary care, to build research capacity and develop the evidence for practice. The strategy also takes into account the 10 priorities for nursing in Wales and the broad spectrum of nursing practice.

The development of this community nursing research strategy is an important milestone as it sets out the key priorities for investigation and development. I wish to thank all who have been involved in its development and look forward to seeing the results arising from the activity it generates.

Professor Jean White

Chief Nursing Officer for Wales

# **Community Nursing Research Strategy**

## **Executive Summary**

This Strategy sets out the priorities and themes for research needed for evidence based practice for community nursing in Wales. These priorities and themes were developed by professionals from clinical practice, higher educational institutions, professional representative bodies, representatives from health boards, and members of offices within the Welsh Government. Consequently, there was participation and representation from the broad spectrum of nursing professionals working in and for the development of community nursing in Wales.

An initial consensus workshop was convened in December 2011 to which participants were invited. All participants were encouraged to consult their colleagues prior to the meeting to set three priority areas for research within their area of practice, training and support that could be provided by their organisation to support research in practice. The workshop used a consensus methodology approach to setting priorities for community nursing research.

### **The aims of the day were to:**

- Prioritise research ideas to provide the evidence for the future health and healthcare of the people in Wales
- Establish the existing support infrastructure and training available to researchers
- Develop an All Wales Framework for community nurses/midwives to undertake research to the required international standards within a supported environment

### **Priorities for Research for Community Nursing:**

- Barriers to translational research in community nursing
- Evaluating the impact and value of community nurses, including patient participation and experiences, and the preparation of nurses for community practice
- Role definitions versus flexibility to maximise health outcomes
- The system: making it work, using new technologies, evaluating service user experiences and views: especially for the fifth quintile
- Looking outwards not inwards: service user – centeredness

### **Acknowledgments**

The workshop was primarily sponsored by the Marchioness of Bute and Lady St David's Charity and supported by the Wales School of Primary Care Research.

## **Background**

In 2009, 'A Community Nursing Strategy for Wales' was published setting out the vision for the future services in Wales that would 'provide holistic, seamless care with a nursing workforce that is flexible, adaptable and knowledgeable' (WAG 2009).

The vision within the strategy was to support and strengthen the delivery of community services for patients in, or close to, their own homes. The strategy provided direction for service development, work force planning, education and training. Consequently some of the issues that needed to be addressed were: The development of service provision; staff recruitment and retention; reducing the number and duration of hospital admissions; the use of new technologies; advanced practice; nurse led beds and consultant posts.

The Community Nursing Strategy contained 43 recommendations, notable amongst these was Recommendation 22 which related to research:

*'The Welsh Assembly Government will invest in the funding of research that will develop the evidence base for community nursing interventions, evaluation methods and the appropriate numbers and skill mix for workforce planning'.*

Although Recommendation 22 was an excellent recommendation and justifiable in its inclusion within the Community Nursing Strategy it was realised that there was a need to establish the priorities for research for community nursing, the accessibility of training to staff to ensure that the research will meet quality standards and the support available within and across organisations so that the results may be used to influence practice and policy.

This resulted in the organisation of a consensus workshop to develop a Community Nursing Research Strategy to reach agreement across Wales on the research priorities for Community Nursing.

## **Acknowledgements**

The workshop was primarily sponsored by the Marchioness of Bute and Lady St David's Charity and supported by the Wales School of Primary Care Research.

## **Aims of the Community Nursing Research Strategy:**

- The development of resources to take forward the identified research priorities for community nursing in Wales
- Leadership for the key priority thematic areas of research for community nursing
- Strengthening capacity to support and capability to deliver high quality research
- Promoting a positive culture of research in the community including all stakeholders
- Supporting the development of evidence based practice

## **Methods of establishing Priorities**

Representatives were invited from Welsh: Higher Education Institutions, Nurse Executives with a remit for research from the Health Boards; Trusts; professional organisations (e.g. RCN, RCM); community nursing areas of practice such as practice nursing and learning disabilities and from the related offices within the Welsh Government.

The aims of the day were to:

- Prioritise research ideas to provide the evidence for the future health and healthcare of the people in Wales
- Establish the existing support infrastructure and training available to researchers
- Develop an All Wales Framework for community nurses/midwives to undertake research to the required international standards within a supported environment

All representatives invited were encouraged to consult their colleagues prior to the meeting and bring three priority areas for research from their organisation or speciality. Participants were also asked to provide three areas in which their organisation would be able to support research and provide training. Alternate delegates were accepted if the person invited was unable to attend. Delegates were asked to send their priorities in prior to the meeting. All priorities received prior to or on the day have been included in this report.

This consensus workshop was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011. Presentations were given during the morning to set the scene for the participants. These covered topics: Public Health in Wales; An All Wales Vision for nursing and midwifery; Research Capacity Building in Wales; Achieving health and health improvement the role of the Academic Health Science Collaboration; and the Research infrastructure in Wales and the Wales School of primary Care Research.

The workshop used a consensus methodology approach to setting priorities for community nursing research. All priority areas for research from each of the participating organisations were included in the development of the priorities.

Phase 1 involved pairs of delegates, negotiating priorities from 6 down to 3. In phase 2, two pairs of delegates joined and combined their 6 priorities. These were negotiated down to 3 and so on, until 2 sets of 3 priorities were established. Finally, all of the delegates came together in the final phase to negotiate 3 final priorities out of a possible 6.

There was good consensus between the two final groups and the 5 research priorities that emerged were:

### **Final Priorities for Research**

- Barriers to translational research in community nursing
- Evaluating the impact and value of community nurses, including patient participation and experiences, and the preparation of nurses for community practice
- Role definitions versus flexibility to maximise health outcomes
- The system: making it work, using new technologies, evaluating service user experiences and views: especially for the fifth quintile
- Looking outwards not inwards: service user – centeredness

### **Research Themes**

The submitted research ideas were also organised into themes and these covered areas for future research that included:

- Organisational change and service redesign
- Nursing Roles
- Skill Mix
- Evidence and outcomes
- Education and development
- Long term care
- Occupational health
- Patient Safety
- Patient and user perspectives

### **Support and Training**

The support and training that could be provided by the organisations within Wales covered a range of areas:

- Clinical speciality specific
- Research skills

- Organisational support for research
- Funding
- Professional development
- Academic Awards

### **Research Development Group**

The Community Nursing Research Group is now a Research Development Group (RDG) within the Wales School of Primary Care Research (WSPCR). The WSPCR is a Registered Research Group (RRG) within the research infrastructure in Wales funded by the National Institute of Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR). The overarching aim of the WSPCR is to ‘develop and share excellence’ in primary care research. To achieve this, the WSPCR has five main functions:

- To maintain, co-ordinate and develop strong academic leadership from within the primary care research community.
- To build research capacity and capability across Wales and across all primary care disciplines.
- To increase the research evidence-base for primary care practice in order to facilitate the implementation of the vision outlined in ‘Designed for Life’ and to inform multi-disciplinary clinical practice and health care policy.
- To contribute to NISCHR aims and objectives and support the needs of collaborators.
- To promote the interests of primary care research in Wales among professional bodies and at a UK level.

### **Next steps for the initiative:**

- Develop a central information source on priorities, support and training available to take forward research priorities.
- Develop key groups leading on elements of the priority areas.
- Secure agreement in principle from the delegates and the Wales School of Primary Care Research (WSPCR) that this group be based in the WSPCR as a research development group (RDG).
- Develop a central information source linking researchers across specialties and organisations.
- Engage with NISCHR to identify relevant information and support.
- Engage with the Office of the Chief Nursing Officer to determine what funding would be available to support the implementation of Recommendation 22.
- Create a website to disseminate information on research outputs and funding opportunities to the Welsh community nursing research network.
- RCBC fellowships covering key areas

**References:** A Community Nursing Strategy for Wales 2009. WAG, Cardiff.

## Participants

|      |                    |  |
|------|--------------------|--|
| Prof | Sue Bale           | Aneurin Bevan Health Board                                       |
| Ms   | Lorna Burdge       | All Wales Primary Care Nursing Leads/Practice Nurses             |
| Mrs  | Judith Carrier     | Cardiff University   |
| Ms   | Sue Davies         | SW Cancer Network  |
| Mr   | Robyn Davies       | Wales School of Primary Care Research                            |
| Dr   | Ruth Davis         | University of Glamorgan  |
| Prof | Sue Denman         | Cardiff University   |
| Mrs  | Polly Ferguson     | Welsh Government   |
| Mr   | Stephen Griffiths  | National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) |
| Ms   | Lynne Grundy       | Welsh Nursing and Midwifery Committee (WNMC)                     |
| Dr   | Ben Hannigan       | Cardiff University   |
| Dr   | Sara Hayes         | Welsh Government   |
| Prof | Jane Hopkinson     | Cardiff University   |
| Dr   | Helen Howson       | HSSDG Strategy, Welsh Government                                 |
| Prof | Billie Hunter      | Chair of Midwifery Research Network                              |
| Prof | Joyce Kenkre       | University of Glamorgan  |
| Ms   | Linda Lewis        | Public Health Wales  |
| Prof | Donna Mead         | University of Glamorgan  |
| Ms   | Eileen Munson      | Practice Nurse Association                                       |
| Prof | Ruth Northway      | University of Glamorgan  |
|      | Joanne Pike        | Glyndwr University   |
| Prof | David Pontin       | University of Glamorgan  |
| Mrs  | Jo Smith           | University of Glamorgan  |
| Ms   | Sherrill Snelgrove | Swansea University   |
| Mrs  | Sue Thomas         | Royal College of Nurses  |
| Ms   | Lorna Tinsley      | National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) |
| Mrs  | Jackie Toynton     | The Marchioness of Bute and Lady St David's Charity              |
| Dr   | Carolyn Wallace    | University of Glamorgan  |
|      | Chris Walsh        | All Wales LHB Nurse Directors                                    |
| Ms   | Pat White          | University of Glamorgan  |
| Mrs  | Caroline Whittaker | University of Glamorgan  |
| Mrs  | Ruth Wyn Williams  | Learning Disability, Bangor University                           |

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