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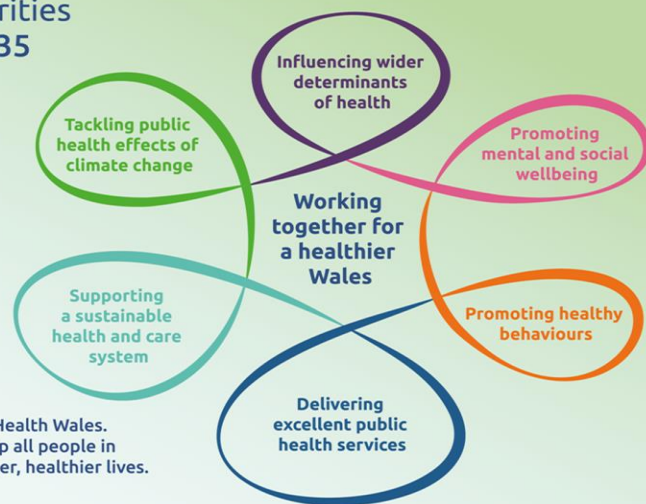


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Ymchwil Iechyd
a Gofal Cymru
Health and Care
Research Wales

Our Priorities 2023-2035



We are Public Health Wales.
We exist to help all people in
Wales live longer, healthier lives.

Our values are **working together**
with **trust and respect** to **make a difference**.



Public Health Wales Research & Evaluation Highlights Report 2025-2026

Contact details

Research & Development Office
Research, Data and Digital Directorate
Public Health Wales
2 Capital Quarter
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Email the R&D team for information about PHW Research:

PHW.Research@wales.nhs.uk

[Public Health Research, Data and Digital - Home](#)
(sharepoint.com)





PHW Microbiology Study support - this year in numbers

**35 commercial
SLA's**

**9 non-commercial
SLA's**

**2 Commercial
Validations**

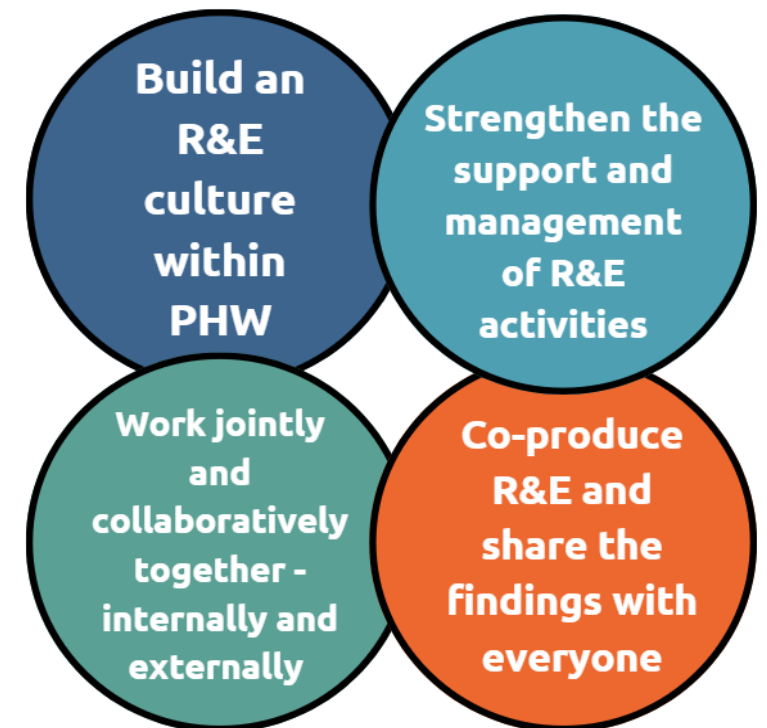
Public Health Wales Research and Evaluation Strategy 2023-2026

Research and Evaluation is a core remit of PHW. Our R&E Strategy sets out **our commitment** to work with others to lead research and evaluation to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in Wales and to reduce health inequalities.

To make our plan work, we will:

- Build a **culture** of research and evaluation
- Improve the way we **manage** and **support** research and evaluation
- **Work together** with others and share our research and evaluation findings with everyone
- Ensure that partners, stakeholders and the public are **included** in our research and evaluation

We will enable the delivery of our strategy through focusing on conducting research and evaluation that is rigorous, meaningful, and addresses gaps in our knowledge to improve health.



Public Health Wales Areas of Research and Evaluation Interest

We have published our Areas of Research and Evaluation (R&E) Interest which lists the research questions we are interested in learning more about in relation to our six strategic priorities. This is to enable researchers, funders and collaborators to understand our priorities and focus their efforts to make the biggest impact.

Why Collaborate With Us?

To support partnerships and collaborations with the research community we have a number of research assets, programmes and strengths which are outlined in our R&E Strategy and long-term strategy, as well as cross-cutting and enabling areas helping to deliver work within PHW.

We are keen to discuss and engage with stakeholders including researchers and funders to draw on a wide range of strengths and expertise to address these questions. Please contact the R&E Office for more details.

These questions are updated on a bi-annual basis.



Undertaking research with impact

Our staff produce high-quality, innovative research across a wide range of public health disciplines within an increasingly competitive funding environment.

This work delivers clear impact on population health, as well as on policy and practice, both nationally and internationally.

The breadth and diversity of this activity is reflected throughout this report.



NHS Studies snapshot

[The third study of Infectious Intestinal Disease in the UK \(IID3 study\)](#)

IRAS: 314268 | **PHW Lead:** Rachel Chalmers **Timeline:** May 2023 – Sept 2026

[Development of Pathways for the Diagnosis and Management of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Wales](#)

IRAS: 321836 | **PHW Lead:** Tamas Barry **Timeline:** Mar 2024 – Jun 2026

[Colospect](#)

IRAS:293364 **PHW Lead:** Steve Court **Timeline:** May 2023 – Oct 2027

[Functional genomics of Cryptosporidium](#)

IRAS:340903 **PHW Lead:** Rachel Chalmers **Timeline:** Feb 2025 – Jan 2027

[FungiScope Candida Campaign](#)

IRAS:353096 **PHW Lead:** Lewis White **Timeline:** Jul 2025 – Jun 2027

[Vesper](#)

IRAS: 1011153 **PHW Lead:** Mandy Wootton **Timeline:** Feb 2025 – Sept 2026



NHS Studies snapshot

Balloon

IRAS:1007696 **PHW Lead:** Catherine Moore **Timeline:** Oct 2024-Nov 2028

Preside

IRAS: 346303 **PHW Lead:** Rishi Dillon **Timeline:** Jan 2025-Jan 2029

ERS-AMR-CRC

IRAS:327747 **PHW Lead:** Rishi Dillon **Timeline:** Jul 2024 – Jun 2028

EXCISE

IRAS:1009425 **PHW Lead:** Mandy Wootton **Timeline:** Jul 2025 Jun 2027

Shield

IRAS:352027 **PHW Lead:** Catherine Moore **Timeline:** Sept 2025 – Oct 2026

Assessing the effect of silver wound dressings on patients 2025PHW0002

IRAS: **PHW Lead:** Greg Williams **Timeline:** Apr 2026 – Dec 2027

Help me Quit

IRAS: 363766 **PHW Lead:** Jasmine Kew **Timeline:** Oct 2025 – Jan 2026





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Research Highlights



WHO Collaborating Centre for Digital Health Equity

“Towards a future where data and digital health transformation enhances equitable health outcomes-bringing benefit to Wales and the wider European region”

Collaborating Centre Overview

Current focus:

Developing a self-assessment tool to support equity in digital health system transformation

Key activities:

- Inform WHO Europe Digital Health Action Plan (2023-2030)
- Develop a digital health equity curriculum
- Contribute to WHO strategies (AI roadmap, global digital health initiatives)

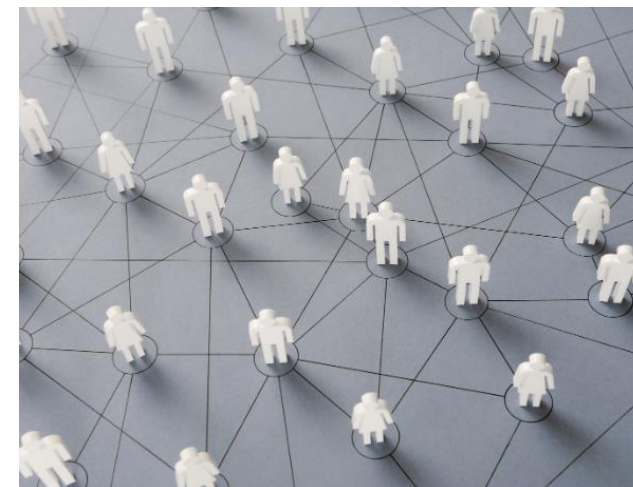
Aim:

Advancing digital health to improve equitable health outcomes across Wales and Europe

The launch event took place on the 24th November 2025 at The Parkgate Hotel in Cardiff and was attended by colleagues from the World Health Organisation, the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing and other partners.



**WHO Collaborating Centre
for Digital Health Equity**



World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Digital Health Equity - Public Health Wales

COLOSPECT

Phase two prospective observational single blind multi-site performance evaluation trial of serum Raman spectroscopy and supervised machine learning classification in a FIT-positive bowel screening population-One Wales Study

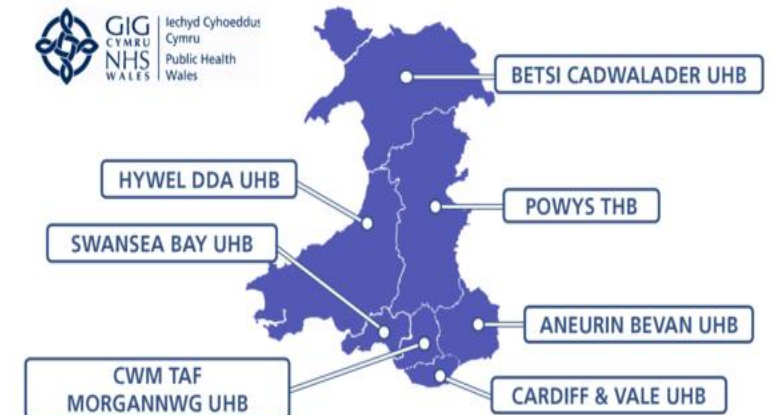
Public Health Wales (PHW) is proud to be the lead site for COLOSPECT, which has now completed recruitment and is in the follow-up phase, continuing PHW's commitment to advancing research across Wales.

PHW also champions the One Site Wales model-an approach that proved crucial during the pandemic, when PHW led the setup of the national vaccine hub. This approach continues to drive better access to research, supporting robust follow-up and enabling meaningful questions to be answered efficiently.

"I am delighted to have reached the target recruitment figure of 2,000 participants, showing the interest from the public in screening research."

It is particularly impressive that COLOSPECT involved all 7 local health boards and has been the highest recruiting cancer study month on month."

Professor Dean Harris, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon SBUHB.



ISO in a Box: Genomics Accreditation Framework

Led by **Professor Tom Connor** from the PHW Genomics team, the "ISO in a Box" project is developing a framework to simplify the development of genomics-based services with ISO 15189 and ISO 17025 accreditation worldwide.

Funded by the Wellcome Trust, this project brought £306,987 into PHW.

This work has included sharing Welsh expertise globally, including on visits to The Gambia and South Africa in the last year, which saw Prof. Connor hosting workshops focused on bioinformatics and accreditation. This work, as part of the larger project, provides opportunities for global engagement and showcasing of Welsh expertise. On the visit, Prof. Connor said: "Wales has established itself as a global leader in the field of pathogen genomics and it was a privilege to be able share our knowledge and insight with African colleagues."

"The sessions were highly productive, and despite the challenges posed by reduced aid funding, we remain optimistic about a future where genomics plays a key role in reducing the burden of infectious diseases in Africa. To build on the momentum from this visit, further meetings and activities are already being planned."



LifeArc Translational Rare Diseases Centres

Llion Davies & Robert Maddison-Jarvis from CARIS are leading efforts focused on advancing innovative clinical trials, health economics appraisals, and tracking key regulatory developments in the healthcare sector. A significant part of this initiative includes a dedicated funding allocation of £200,000 for Public Health Wales (PHW), supporting their role in driving forward public health innovations and policy improvements.

There are over 7000 rare conditions, many of which do not have a licensed therapy due to the challenges in coordinating clinical trials. The LifeArc Centre for the Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials (ARDT) aims to address this inequality by developing a UK-level recruitment portal for rare disease clinical trials.

Working collaboratively with the other UK national registries and partners within Wales, Dr. **Rob Maddison-Jarvis, CARIS**, has received funding to investigate how data about rare disease patients does or doesn't flow to ensure patients living with rare conditions in Wales benefit fully from this initiative. This investigation is initially focused on several exemplar conditions: Lynch syndrome, lysosomal storage disorders, spinal muscular atrophy and rare haemoglobinopathies.



for Rare Disease

Consolidating an interpretative framing of digital exclusion and conducting a stakeholder engagement exercise to inform practice and evaluation

Dr Diana Bright and team successfully secured £153,275.58 from NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) Programme to perform a hermeneutic evidence synthesis on the topic of '[Understanding the Contribution of Digital Exclusion to Health Inequalities: Hermeneutic Review and Interpretive Framing](#)'

The project involving PPI co-applicants will be a collaboration with the University of Oxford, Cwmpas, Newydd Housing Association and Displaced People in Action.

"This project brings together evidence and real-world experience to develop a shared understanding of digital exclusion, helping organisations design and evaluate more effective digital inclusion initiatives that can reduce health inequalities. It will produce practical, evidence-informed outputs, including an infographic and four personas, to support practitioners working with digitally excluded communities. These outputs will be presented in an in-person workshop in June 2026" Dr Diana Bright.



EDICTS-M Ethical Determination In sequenCing diagnosTics developmentS-Metagenomics

This laboratory-based protocol leverages surplus or discarded clinical samples collected during routine care to support diagnostic innovation. It is strictly non-commercial and designed to:

- Develop novel assays for pathogen identification.
- Optimise existing agnostic assays using anonymised, surplus clinical material.

Lewis White, Clinical Scientist at PHW Microbiology as Principal Investigator, is collaborating with Guys St Thomas and Cardiff University.

Nucleic acid extracts from patient samples exceeding standard diagnostic needs will be transferred to Cardiff University and all analysis will be shared with Guys St Thomas as Sponsor for the study. These extracts will be used for:

- Library construction
- Nanopore metagenomic sequencing

This partnership aims to enhance diagnostic capabilities through advanced sequencing and assay development.



Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG) Funding – Commercial Research Delivery Equipment Call

Tom Connor was successful in his application for VPAG, awarded by Health and Care Research Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government for the Pathogen Genomics Unit – PENGU.

The objectives:

1. Expand Sequencing Capacity by installing a MiSeq i100 , enabling up to three additional daily runs and dedicated pathogen/microbiome sequencing for commercial trials.
2. Reduce Sequencing Turnaround Times by over 80% to meet commercial trial requirements with faster, more flexible delivery.
3. Establish dedicated capacity to support at least five commercial trial requests per month by 31 March 2027, using the MiSeq i100 to attract new diagnostic, antimicrobial, and precision-medicine studies to Wales.



Incorporating wastewater-based epidemiology into a real-time, multiplex public health surveillance system

The project is developing a new real-time public health surveillance system that combines wastewater data with clinical, survey and syndromic health data to give a more accurate picture of disease activity. It uses advanced statistical modelling to link these different data sources and understand when and where public-health action is needed.

Public Health Wales' co-leads — **Alisha Davies** and **Christopher Williams** — are contributing public-health expertise, helping shape how the integrated surveillance system works in practice and ensuring the wastewater component is meaningful for real-world decision-making.



Sexual health in later life: understanding and addressing rising STI trends in older adults in Wales

Liam Mahedy was successful in his application to the Welsh Crucible for his project Sexual health in later life: understanding and addressing the rising STI trends in older adults in Wales which examines sexual health in adults aged 55 and over, particularly the recent rise in STI diagnoses. The aim is to support more inclusive and responsive public-health services in Wales.

The award for £5,530 sees PHW work in collaboration with Aberystwyth University and Cardiff Metropolitan University in a very under explored, but important issue which was praised for being innovative and engaging.

“It was fantastic to be awarded this Welsh Crucible grant, especially for work that’s rarely visible in public-health conversations. The project will help us understand how older adults navigate sexual-health information so we can design services that genuinely meet their needs”. Liam Mahedy



Bowel Screening Interventions to Reduce DNA Rates

What was the challenge?

To help more people get follow-up after a FIT- positive bowel screening test

What was done?

In 2025, Bowel Screening Wales introduced clearer letters, text reminders, and phone calls from Pathway Navigators to support non-responders. Letters improved early responses, while texts and especially phone calls further increased engagement-particularly for those facing anxiety, confusion, illness, or time pressures.

What was the outcome?

Over 1,200 non-responders were identified; nearly half were contacted, and around one in four booked appointments. Some had polyps, while others were fast-tracked for cancer care.

Combining letters, texts , and personal support proved most effective. Dedicated Pathway Navigators offer a low-cost, high-impact way to improve early diagnosis and reduce inequalities.



Understanding the barriers and facilitators to engagement with Diabetes services to improve outcomes and prevent complications from Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) among adults living with T2DM in Wales: a qualitative study (2025)

Dr Esther Mugweni, Deputy Head of Evaluation PHW & Adam Blunt, Beaufort Research

What was the challenge?

Type 2 Diabetes rates were rising in Wales, and people were struggling to engage with services and self-management due to limited understanding, emotional barriers, access issues, and social influences.

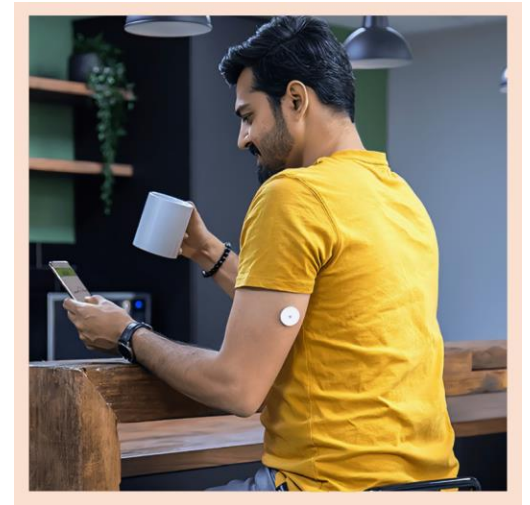
What was done?

Public Health Wales commissioned qualitative research, including 50 interviews with people living with Type 2 Diabetes and 15 with healthcare professionals, analysed using behaviour-change frameworks.

What was the outcome

Four drivers of engagement were identified: knowledge, emotional factors, service accessibility, and social influences.

Recommendations focused on clearer education, more flexible services, stronger emotional and peer support, and better use of technology.



Testing the Public Health Intervention Wheel Against Three UK Nurse-Led Public Health Workstreams

Stephanie E. Perrett, Christie Craddock, Lesley Thomas, Emma Cain, Michelle Hughes

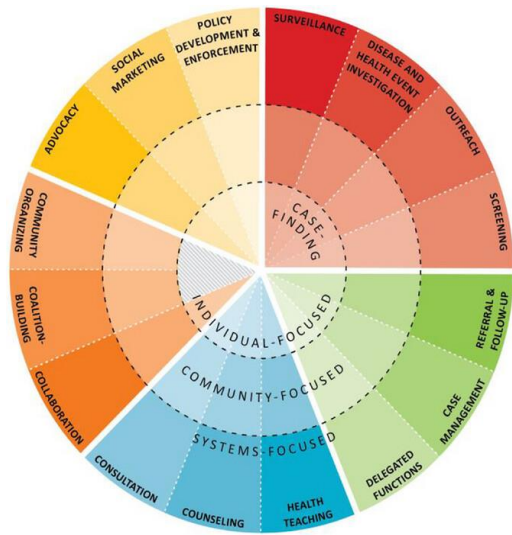
What was the challenge?

Working as part of a multi-disciplinary workforce, we sought to better define our nursing roles and consider our unique contribution within the public health space. We wanted to examine the scope of our nursing practice to identify ways to improve our impact and reach.

What was done?

To do this, we mapped our work against a well-established public health nursing framework, the Public Health Intervention Wheel ([Minnesota Department of Health 2019](#)), to answer the following questions:

1. Can we test the Wheel using our nurse-led services?
2. Can the Wheel help us identify the scope of our practice, highlighting areas that could be developed further?



What was the outcome

The Intervention Wheel helps demonstrate how PHNs contribute at an individual, community and systems level, strengthening the voice of public health nursing practice. The Wheel was a successful tool for evaluating the components of our work and helped identify where services and programs could be strengthened. Work is already in place to strengthen the programs in the areas we identified because of mapping our work to the Wheel. Using our work programs to test the wheel also helped suggest how the Wheel could be developed further to ensure it captures all aspects of the nurses' contribution to public health.

A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of a Cross-Sectoral Partnership to Promote Mental Wellbeing in Wales (2022-2027)

Dr Jack Walklett, Dr Alex Christensen, Dr Charlotte Grey, Dr Esther Mugweni, Emily van de Venter, Carol Owen & Dr Alisha Davies

What was the challenge?

Good mental wellbeing supports both physical and mental health. Hapus is a national, multi-faceted programme led by Public Health Wales (2022–27) to promote population mental wellbeing. One workstream focuses on developing a cross-sector strategic partnership to enable collective action. This presentation outlines early findings from a long-term evaluation of this partnership.

The logo for 'hapus' is displayed in a black, lowercase, serif font on a light blue rectangular background.

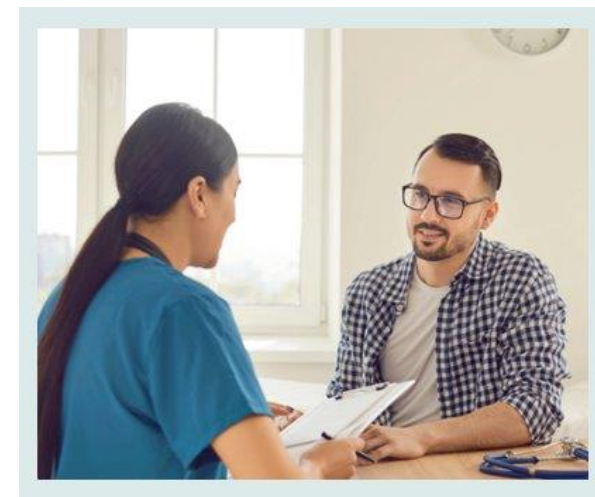
What was done?

In-depth interviews were conducted with representatives from eight of the twelve partner organisations to explore their role in promoting mental wellbeing and the impact of participation. A supporting survey, based on the Partnership Analysis Tool, was distributed to all twelve organisations to assess partnership value and experiences.

What was the outcome?

Analysis is ongoing. Early findings suggest the partnership has enhanced understanding of mental wellbeing, strengthened connections, and supported partners to refine and expand their activities. Participants also identified how Public Health Wales could further support future delivery.

To date, the partnership has been beneficial, fostering a shared understanding and stronger cross-sector collaboration. Key priorities include sharing evidence on effective approaches and clarifying partner roles. These insights may inform wider partnership working across public health.



Help Me Quit – Jasmine Kew (MPH)

What was the challenge?

Despite declining smoking rates, tobacco remains a leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in Wales. Smoking and health related outcomes are significantly worse in more deprived communities, with death rates over three times higher than in the least deprived areas in 2022. Addressing smoking can help reduce these inequalities, particularly through targeted services such as Help Me Quit, Wales's national cessation programme, which provides evidence-based support including counselling and medication.

What was done?

To analyse Help Me Quit data (2017-2025) to assess whether socioeconomic status affects quitting success and service drop-out rates, as a first step towards ensuring equitable outcomes.

What was the outcome?

The study identified important links between deprivation (WIMD) and quit rates. Findings will inform the 2026-27 implementation plan and better support priority groups, guide service development (including digital access, medications, and social marketing), and provide reusable code and analysis for future research.





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Supporting the next generation of public health researchers



PhD - Functional Genomics of *Cryptosporidium* spp – Rachel Chalmers

This study involves the *Cryptosporidium* Reference Unit providing samples, data and expertise in collaboration with the University of East Anglia, The Francis-Crick Institute (London) and The Wellcome Institute of Anti-Infectives Research (Dundee, Scotland).

This study is focused on the disease Cryptosporidiosis which is a disease that affects the gut caused by consuming water, food, or by contact with animals or their faeces carrying the parasite *Cryptosporidium*. The management of patients is difficult as there are no effective drugs against *Cryptosporidium*, with none licensed for use in the UK or EU.

The samples will be used in experiments investigating the mechanisms behind parasite invasion of host cells and determining if these mechanisms can be used as targets for drug development.



One Zoo (PhD)

Through the One Zoo funding our clinicians have been working in partnership with both Cardiff and Aberystwyth University's looking into environmental health and infectious diseases.

They have been exploring pathways and connectivity of drivers of infection and how zoonotic diseases spread. As the environment has changed since the original application, the viruses being focussed on changes.

This helps us better understand transference of viruses so that we are more prepared for pandemics.

One of our projects explores the interfaces between human and farm dogs in relation to the transmission and prevention of Hydatid Disease in mid-Wales, a known hot spot where the causative parasite, *Echinococcus granulosus* is endemic.



HSST- Investigating resistance and microbiota changes in response to commonly used wound dressings – Greg Williams, Clinical Liaison BMS

The aim of this study is to look at how bacteria in wounds change after using commonly used wound dressings in Swansea Bay University Health Board.

Stage 1 will analyse bacteria from wounds across Wales to identify genes or changes linked to resistance to antibiotics or silver and assess overall patient patterns.

Stage 2 will follow patients in Swansea Bay wound clinics over time to examine how wound bacteria change with different dressings, including gene activity that may influence healing.

The findings may inform future research and improvements in wound care to support better healing outcomes.





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Personal Development Research Awards for PHW Staff

Developing Research Careers

PHW is taking forward the third year of its Research Mentorship Programme in partnership with the Health and Care Research Wales Faculty, building on the approach established to support staff development through the Faculty personal award schemes.

An expression of interest is being issued to PHW staff to identify ambitious researchers from across the organisation who have viable research ideas and the support needed to develop competitive applications.

The programme will support a mentored cohort to prepare for the Health and Care Research Wales Faculty personal award schemes, which open in September 2026, and is intended to strengthen research capacity and capability across PHW by supporting progression at different career stages.



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Michelle Hughes, Senior Health Protection Nurse, Communicable Disease Inclusion Health Programme (CDIHP)

A qualitative study exploring the perspectives of individuals using outreach services to identify cirrhosis was completed with funding from the Research Capacity Building Collaboration Wales (RCBC Wales) First into Research Fellowship, delivered through a collaborative partnership with Cardiff University.

This project aligns with the Welsh Government Together for Health - Liver Disease Delivery Plan to reduce inequity in service accessibility. A key challenge for Wales currently is reaching people who are at risk of liver disease but are not engaged with conventionally delivered health care services.

"The study has now been completed, with the final report submitted to RCBC Wales. Building on this work, I am collaborating with CTMUHB Research & Development and the Community Drug and Alcohol Team to explore Fibroscan delivery from a health promotion perspective. A manuscript from the study has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Research in Nursing, developed in collaboration with my supervisor and the SBUHB Hepatology Nurse Specialist. I am also working with the SBUHB hepatology team to disseminate findings and explore the development of an evidence-informed training package for staff", Michelle Hughes



Public Health Specialty Leads – Professor Alisha Davies and Professor Tom Connor

Health and Care Research Wales announced the appointments of Professor **Alisha Davies** and **Professor Tom Connor** as Public Health Specialty Leads. Their role will be to continue to champion and support research delivery, build networks of principal investigators within their specialty, and support the uptake of studies throughout Wales.

Dr Nicola Williams, National Director of Support and Delivery at Health and Care Research Wales, said: “Our Specialty Leads are crucial to advancing research across all clinical portfolios, reinforcing our One Wales approach.

“They also play a key role in expanding our capacity for commercial research, backed by funding from the Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG) programme. Furthermore, they contribute significantly to networking at UK Specialty Lead meetings, fostering engagement across a broader national network.”



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Senior Research Leader – Professor Tom Connor

Tom Connor was successfully appointed as a Health and Care Research Wales Senior Research Leader. It is a source of prestige which recognises an individual's research leadership and contribution to the health and social care research community in Wales.

Expectation:

- Provide leadership for health and social care research professionals in Wales.
- Help attract, develop and retain high-quality students and researchers.
- Mentor and support the next generation of research leaders in Wales.
- Act as an ambassador for Health and Care Research Wales, promoting health and social care research nationally and internationally.
- Offer strategic advice to the Welsh Government's Health and Social Care Research and Development Division.
- Contribute as a senior leader to strategic and operational activities, including funding boards, working groups, scheme development, Faculty initiatives and events



Tom wants to develop the wider genomics ecosystem in Wales, and believes this scheme would be an effective mechanism by which his expertise can support the efforts of HCRW to develop the research landscape in Wales.



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Research Partnerships and Collaborations



Vision for Academic Public Health Research in Wales – 2026

Public Health Wales has led the co-development of a shared Vision for Academic Public Health Research in Wales, informed by the 2025 review of the research landscape and engagement with partners across higher education, the NHS, local government and the third sector.

The vision sets out shared aims and principles to strengthen coordination, capability, collaboration and impact, and will provide a national framework for a more connected and future-focused academic public health research system in Wales.

Next steps: Public Health Wales will work with the Chief Medical Officer, Welsh Government and wider partners to establish a Wales and UK steering group to provide shared leadership and oversee implementation of the actions set out in the vision.



Cardiff University - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Cardiff University in April 2026 to provide a stronger strategic framework for joint working in public health research.

The partnership is being taken forward through governance and management arrangements, with thematic work focused on genomics, behavioural science, pandemic preparedness, and climate change and health, alongside cross-cutting themes of skills and workforce development, policy and knowledge mobilisation, and digital and AI infrastructure.

Early implementation is underway, with management arrangements established and a formal launch planned for July 2026.



Ymchwil Sgrinio

Ymchwil Sgrinio is a collaboration between Public Health Wales and Cardiff University to provide a dedicated, sustainable, and agile resource focused on population-screening in order to:

- Promote and develop research, evaluation, and education.
- Enhance the health of the population of Wales by improving screening uptake and decreasing inequalities of uptake.
- Advance innovative practice, novel screening technologies and methodologies.

The group is currently in the process of developing its work plan and also formalising the working relationship between the two organisations.



The SAIL Feasibility Hwb

SAIL Databank stands for Secure Anonymised Information Databank. It is a safe haven for billions of person-based records, which enables researchers to answer important questions for the benefit of society. Researchers can access a broad range of routinely collected data spanning up to 30 years from an entire population.

The Public Health Wales Linked Data Feasibility Hwb will use data-driven methods to investigate research questions supporting public health actions and policies in Wales.

They will evaluate the feasibility of addressing priority questions using the SAIL Databank, which contains extensive health-related data.

The Hwb will assess data availability, potential linkages, new data sources, coverage, quality, completeness, control groups, and sample sizes.

Summarised figures and estimates will inform internal reports and research grant applications.

This work aims to enhance the efficiency of the scoping and approval process, ensuring resources are allocated to viable projects.

We can PHW use limited resources best through amendments and subscription users.



RCT HDRC-Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

A Memorandum of Understanding has been set up between Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Public Health Wales for the provision and support of the operation of the Health Determinants of Research Collaboration (HDRC) between Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) County Borough Council and Public Health Wales (PHW).



The aim of the RCT HDRC is to develop a partnership designed to promote knowledge and domain expertise on the wider determinants of health, health inequalities and evidence-based practice to support public health.

PHWs' involvement brings expertise in evaluation approaches, research prioritisation, development, and delivery of public health research in collaboration with wider academic networks focusing on the wider determinants of health.



Memorandum of Understanding with Public Health Scotland

Scotland and Wales both have strong pathogen genomics capabilities with opportunities to collaborate given shared size, challenges, and priorities.

During COVID-19, PHS and PHW worked together to develop and deliver national services, demonstrating a federated model that improved value, speed, and data sharing.

Strengthening these links will now enhance capability and deliver greater benefits for patients and populations.

The collaboration will:

- Improve service delivery through shared expertise
- Strengthen research through combined data
- Promote standardisation and better data sharing
- Support joint training and knowledge exchange
- Reduce duplication, saving time and effort





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Research Forums & Networks



PHW Research & Evaluation Conference 2025

On 3 December 2025, the Research and Evaluation Conference brought together more than 100 attendees, joining both face-to-face and virtually.

In keeping with our commitment to sustainability, the event was held at Capital Quarter 2 in Cardiff, a venue that proved both accessible and highly regarded by participants.

The programme highlighted a wide range of work from across Public Health Wales through oral presentations and poster displays. The event was further enriched by partner exhibition stands from Cardiff Met University, Welsh Institute of PA, Health and Sport and SAIL Databank.

We look forward to delivering the same success for the 2026 conference on 3rd December 2026.



Public Health Research Spotlight sessions

These lunchtime webinars showcase large-scale public health research programmes, networks, and infrastructures.

Delivered in a relaxed 'show and tell' format, they introduce new evidence, build connections, and create opportunities for collaboration with external speakers.

They raise awareness of key research initiatives and encourage engagement across PHW.

Sessions delivered to date include:



Our Future Health
Ros Blackwood, Director of
Population Health Insights



**Women's Health Research
Wales**
Jacky Boivin, Director



PRIME Centre Wales
Alison Porter, Associate
Director of PRIME Centre Wales



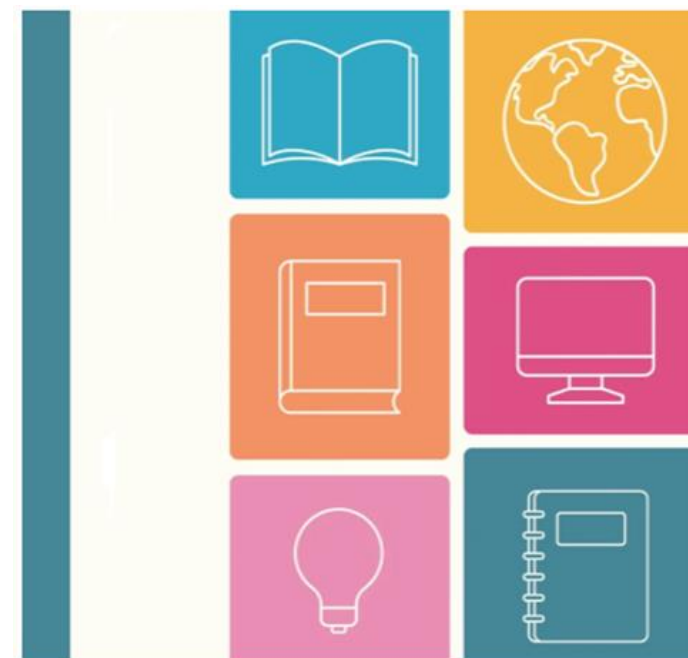
**Centre for Development, Evaluation,
Complexity and Implementation in
Public Health Improvement (DECIPHER)**
James Lewis, International
Engagement Lead

'Journeys in Research' career development sessions

Launched September 2025 by the R&D Office, these sessions create an informal space to showcase and celebrate research across Public Health Wales.

They feature diverse researchers sharing their career journeys and current work.

Relaxed and accessible, the sessions inspire colleagues while highlighting internal expertise and the R&D Office's role in supporting and connecting staff.



Monthly R&D Office support drop-in sessions

The PHW R&D Office runs a monthly lunchtime drop-in session (first Wednesday), open to all PHW staff.

These informal sessions offer support on funding, project development, approvals and research careers.

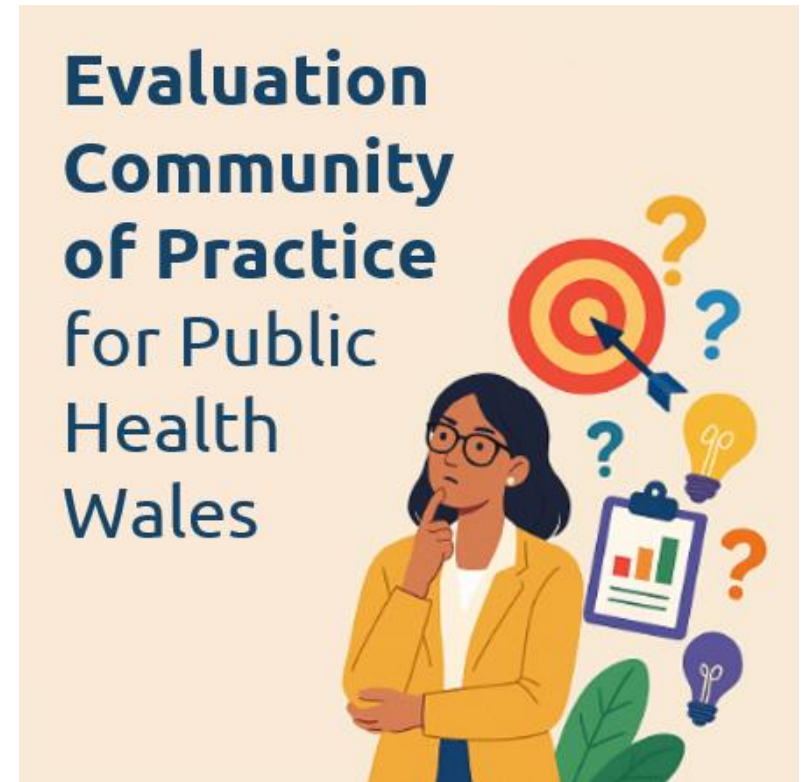
Well attended and valued, they provide a flexible alternative to formal meetings, improve access to support, and increase engagement with the R & D Office.



Public Health Wales Evaluation Community of Practice (ECOP)

The Evaluation Community of Practice continues to be a key mechanism for building capability across PHW, with 527 members and a programme of shared learning focused on strengthening evaluation methods and practice. Over the past six months, activity has included webinars, practical guidance and resources to support more consistent and high-quality evaluation across the organisation.

- Hosted **14 webinars** with 70–100 attendees each, featuring expert guest speakers.
- Grown to **600 members** across Public Health Wales and Local Public Health Teams.
- Published **17 “Introduction to...”** resources on evaluation methods, with positive feedback and more in development.
- Published **9 Blogs** with more in development.



Public Health Wales Evaluation Champions

The pilot Evaluation Champions programme was launched in January 2026 to strengthen confidence, consistency and visibility of evaluation across teams.

Early feedback has highlighted strong commitment to evaluation, alongside common challenges relating to capacity, data access and governance, and has reinforced the need to embed evaluation earlier in service and programme design.



Public Health Wales Evaluation Clinics

Evaluation Drop-in Clinics continue to provide practical one-to-one support to PHW staff on evaluation design, planning and the application of PHW Evaluation Standards.

Since launch, the clinics have supported 58 evaluation discussions across a wide range of programmes, helping to strengthen evaluation quality and build confidence across the organisation.





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PHW.Research@wales.nhs.uk
