

Institution: University of South Wales
Unit of Assessment: UoA A3
<p>a. Context:</p> <p>Located in the heart of one of the most socio-economically deprived areas of the UK, researchers in the Centre for Research and Innovation in Care Sciences (CRICS) at the University of South Wales fully appreciate the challenges of driving health improvement and social change. We understand the power of robust public policy, the importance of research-informed education and the value of providing practical support to help users engage with research. We have built on a long history of engagement with our main non-academic user groups: the public, including patients, carers and families; the policy community; the public sector, including professional organisations and practitioners; the community and third sector, including voluntary organisations; and health and social care industrial/ commercial partners. Amongst these groups, CRICS has a particular interest in working with people more vulnerable or marginalised in society, such as those with long term conditions. In line with the core business of the faculty, our research is also significant for nurses, midwives and a growing number of allied health professional groups.</p> <p>Our research focuses on impacting on health and welfare, society and culture, public policy and services, for the benefit of regional, national and international communities. It is themed under two main clusters, although there is collaboration across both:</p> <p>1. Health policy, evaluation & engagement (HPEE)</p> <p>The primary impact of research in this cluster is on public policy, practitioners and services. Public engagement activities impact on society, culture and creativity. The cluster incorporates the Genomics Policy Unit (GPU) and Health Economics & Policy Research Unit (HEPRU).</p> <p>2. Transforming care (TC)</p> <p>Research in this cluster impacts on health and welfare through qualitative approaches to understanding the individual/patient experience in order to transform care. Innovation in education, practice and technology, along with synthesis of the evidence base, impacts on practitioners and services, and ultimately on health.</p> <p>User engagement through innovative methods and lay participation in research are particularly important to, and a key strength of, our research.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>We take a range of approaches to interacting with our key and non-academic users and audiences to maximise the impact of our research.</p> <p>Strategic health alliances: A vital element of our approach to impact is in forging strategic alliances with the NHS, commercial and third sectors and other academic institutions. We have Board representation on the National Institute for Social Care & Health Research Academic Health Science Collaboration, and four senior staff have roles at Board level in the NISCHR South East Wales Academic Health Science Partnership. Two particularly valuable strategic partnerships are with the newly established Cwm Taf University Health Board and with Velindre NHS Trust, both fostering greater opportunities for multidisciplinary research and capacity building. These alliances provide a sound context for fostering other approaches to promoting impact:</p> <p>Informing: Our project management system prompts researchers at the outset to identify a dissemination strategy that includes informing and educating relevant user groups. As well as each group's web-pages and other traditional means of dissemination (e.g., peer-reviewed publications), we use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and blogs. Researchers in TC produce easy read versions of their reports and accessible literature reviews. The GPU (HPEE) recently coordinated a series of nine accessible articles in Nursing Standard, linked to its research on genetic competency. Researchers also regularly contribute to news media via regional and national newspapers, radio (BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio 4) and television (BBC Wales).</p> <p>Consulting: At strategic level, we consult with our <i>Involving People</i> lay panel to provide feedback on our research plans (see REF 5 for further details). For major projects, researchers are encouraged to convene Advisory Groups with representation so that users' views can directly influence the research. CRICS also uses interactive participatory approaches to engage stakeholders in research; the GPU, for example, pioneered Citizens' Juries in Wales.</p> <p>Collaborating: In addressing some complex challenges, much of our work is collaborative, working with academics at other universities, NHS staff, the third sector, lay public and commercial sector as partners in the research process. HEPRU's long-standing collaboration with Cardiff</p>

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University provides a vital health economic component to influential research in primary care, including work on antibiotic prescribing practice and healthy living behaviours.

The groundbreaking approach to collaboration in the Transforming Care cluster sets a benchmark in participatory research. They involve people with learning disabilities at all stages of the process, including co-authorship, employing three people as co-researchers for recent research into abuse. Their report and academic publication are informing the development of counselling services for people with learning disabilities who have experienced abuse.

Knowledge transfer and exchange: Promoting innovation and enterprise has been a key strand of our strategy since 2008. Sandpits, workshops and seminars offer support, enabling researchers to generate and follow through with their ideas. Researchers in Transforming Care work directly with industrial partners to validate, develop or enhance commercial products. Two Patents are held by the group, including a vibration device to aid diagnosis of Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome.

Secondments in (expert practitioners) and out (researchers) of the faculty are a valuable route to knowledge exchange. Secondments out since 2008 include Health Board R&D departments, the Welsh Government, Genetic Alliance UK and Tenovus (a cancer charity). Short-term exchanges are facilitated by the Strategic Insight Programme and 18 CRICS members have benefited from 'SIPs' since 2008. Part-time appointments of NHS staff provide another vital link to services.

Examples

Using these approaches, researchers support patients, families and the wider public so that their voices can be heard. They raise public awareness and change or influence practice, policy and education.

The patient experiences highlighted by Chris Shaw's research on continence (REF 2 output 3) has already resulted in a revision of continence services in Gwent and prompted increased collaboration between this service and spinal injury services. Close collaboration with Consultant Nurse Karen Logan was an essential element in this.

Members of HPEE work directly with the Welsh Government to generate evidence to inform health and social care policies, taking a participatory approach to engage the public in policy reform, exemplified by their public roadshows in 2012 on the reconfiguration of NHS services. HEPRU's role in health economic evaluation across diverse projects such as smoking cessation and abolition of prescription charges influences public policy that impacts on health and welfare outcomes.

Children's nurse specialist Jane Willock has a 0.2fte appointment with us. Her Glamorgan Paediatric Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment Scale is currently the only one to promote pressure ulcer prevention in children based on a statistical analysis of patient data. The scale is used in at least 14 countries around the world, and has been translated into at least 4 languages.

Support to enable staff to achieve impact

The university and faculty actively support staff to maximise the impact of their research through strategic and practical approaches. At strategic level, the university has formed alliances with other research active universities across Wales to promote collaboration, networking, and creativity. The establishment of the university repository promotes dissemination of research. Faculty partnerships with external organisations are proving invaluable in alerting staff to opportunities for collaboration, funding and knowledge exchange, and in responding to organisations' research needs. Practical support comes from allocation of time for research, along with additional study or sabbatical leave, through competitive funding initiatives. Other support is offered by:

- CRICS' Research Assistants pool, dedicated RA support to seek funding and assist in the preparation of bids, and dedicated administrative support for meetings, conferences and events.
- Positive encouragement through annual appraisal and mentoring.
- Fostering the development of social capital through building and maintaining networks via financial support and time allowance for conference and meeting attendance.

Paul Gill provides an example of how staff are supported to achieve impact. In 2007, he was appointed as a postdoctoral Fellow of the all-Wales Research Capacity Building Collaboration scheme led by CRICS and thus able to benefit from the enhanced training provided via its Community of Scholars. As a Fellow, he was enabled to design and complete a two year study, building on his PhD on renal transplantation (REF 2 outputs 1- 3). With mentoring and funding via the university's Research Investment Scheme for a further study, he has built up a distinctive programme of research. Now participating in the SIP, he is collaborating with a consultant dermatologist to seek NISCHR funding to address a specific problem of skin cancer in renal

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transplant patients.

Making use of institutional facilities and expertise

We work closely with the university's Commercial Services Office (CSO) and International Office to optimise opportunities to engage in consultancy and knowledge transfer and exchange schemes. We have a good and growing portfolio of industrial and business partners and well established links with public sector organisations. With CSO's expertise and support, several projects have been translated into viable products and three spin-out companies (Rikoset, StoryWorks and Authentic World). *Authentic World Ltd* was formed in 2004. Weeks and colleagues developed the *safeMedicate* dosage calculation education environments currently informing 60% of UK universities offering healthcare programmes and over 145,000 healthcare professionals internationally.

c. Strategy and plans: Building a sustainable and vibrant research community

Our strategy builds on the basis that sustainability is a core element of 'making a difference'. A crucial factor in this is in supporting programmes of research so that lines of enquiry are built up alongside growing expertise. These elements feature in our 2011-2015 research strategy, which set out plans for embedding impact within the research pathway from the outset. 'Demonstrating a difference' is a core theme, encouraging researchers to plan their programmes strategically, incorporating plans for dissemination, follow-on funding and knowledge exchange initiatives.

As we move to a new strategy for 2018, these remain important factors and focussed research in selected fields will continue. Other key strategic themes include:

- Continuing to build research capacity across the career pathway to foster a vibrant research community, recruiting more PhD students and developing postdoctoral staff through a dedicated postdoctoral training scheme, establishing a formal mentoring scheme and annual postdoctoral fellowships, promoting confidence to seek high quality income.
- Driving sustainability through ambitious pursuit of funding, including European funding, via the Horizon 2020 programme.
- Maximising impact from the outset, publishing in high quality journals, using the university repository and networks to boost citations, disseminating more widely in accessible formats, being innovative in the use of new social media, and monitoring outcomes.

We plan to seize opportunities afforded through strategic health alliances so that CRICS researchers can bring their expertise, particularly in evaluation, and their innovative approaches to engagement and qualitative methods, to address challenges identified with NHS partners. The healthcare challenges facing those who are vulnerable are complex. We plan to address these by taking the views of research beneficiaries into account, working with commercial, health and multidisciplinary academic partners to generate ideas and foster innovation so that outcomes of research are translated effectively into practice, policy and education.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two selected case studies exemplify how the Unit has sought to promote impact through sustained programmes of enquiry, in both cases augmented by outputs that provide a practical application of new knowledge through 'products' that are accessed globally.

Case study 1, *Engaging health professionals and the public with genetics: the impact of the Genomics Policy Unit in raising awareness about the new age of genetic healthcare*, refers to the work of the GPU in engaging the public and practitioners in understanding genetics, using research to influence attitudes and raise awareness of scientific advances and their relevance to health and healthcare. The case study also relates to our approach to achieving impact through informing, consulting, collaborating and knowledge exchange, using innovative and participatory approaches involving practitioners from outside the specialist genetics field and lay people.

Case Study 2 *Safety in numbers: towards reducing global medication dosage calculation problem-solving error*, provides an example of institutional facilities and expertise being harnessed to support translational research and the development of a product to help reduce medication errors. Collaboration has been core to this, with institutional support to build international links an important factor. The research, robustly underpinned by a conceptual framework, has led to a product which is helping to promote patient safety through more competent practice. It provides a powerful example of research directly influencing policy, practice and evidence-based regulation.