

COMMUNITY NURSING RESEARCH STRATEGY FOR WALES

Report of the Launch

21st March 2013

Sponsored by the Marchioness of Bute and Lady St David's Fund

March 2013

1. Agenda

1.1 On the 21st March 2013, the Community Nursing Research Strategy (CNRS) was launched by Professor **Jean White, Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)** for Wales. Professor White set the scene for the major challenges the Welsh NHS faces in the coming years; particularly its ageing population with increasing levels and complexity of ill-health in an environment of financial austerity. In facing these types of challenges she reinforced the Welsh Government policy imperative to deliver more services in the community and that practice must be underpinned by the best evidence and commended this initiative to strengthen the evidence base of community nursing in Wales.

1.2 **Professor Joyce Kenkre**, who has led this initiative, began by thanking all those who have contributed and given support. The group has been successful in achieving Research Development Group status within the Wales School of Primary Care Research. The full scope of community nurse disciplines have contributed from all major institutions across Wales (NHS, Academia, Local Authority, Charity, Private/Commercial):

- Children's community nurses
- District nurses
- Health visitors
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health
- Midwives
- Occupational health
- Palliative care
- Practice nurses
- School nurses
- Research nurses
- Specialist/Advanced practitioners/Consultant nurses

Professor Kenkre went on to describe the aims of the strategy namely:

- 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

The priorities for Research for Community Nursing had been developed using consensus methodology at the first workshop and included:

- 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

The main research themes, developed from the same methodology 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

A summary was also provided on some of the recent research support developments happening across Wales.

1.3 **Martin Semple**, Associate Director of Professional Practice, Wales presented on the role of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in support and direction of research in Wales.

Martin set the scene from a policy perspective highlighting the role of the RCN in the development of the Community Nursing Strategy within which Recommendation 22 was stated:

‘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.’

The RCN Wales Primary Care and Independent Sector Adviser (Sue Thomas) is at present undertaking research into aspects of community nursing. Sue was also a member of the consensus group and assisted in the analysis in the data for the research strategy. Martin Semple has volunteered to assist in the development of the Community Nursing Research Strategy and gave suggestions how the RCN can facilitate developments.

1.4 **Robyn Davies**, Manager of the Wales School for Primary Care Research (WSPCR) concluded the morning session by presenting on the background to primary care research across the UK and the development since 2008 of the NISCHR funded multi-disciplinary and multi intuitional Wales School for Primary Care Research (WSPCR). He gave an overview of how the WSPCR fits within the comprehensive NISCHR infrastructure and suggested that the mission and objectives of the School, could be adopted and adapted for the Community Nurse Research Community Strategy and Operational Plan.

The objectives of the WSPCR were summarised into four areas: the 4Cs – Research Cultivation, Collaboration, Capability and Capacity; Realisation – winning high quality and value research; Publication; Translation – turning research into practice, products and solution for the benefit of the people of Wales.

To facilitate the 4Cs the WSPCR has a fund of £120k per year (until 2015) to support pilot research projects and grant proposal fellowships in primary care that are open to Welsh Community Nurses.

Finally it was suggested that the ratio of researchers from the sizable Community Nurse population in Wales, was very poor and this must to change for the benefit of the profession and most importantly for the health and social care of the people of Wales.

2 Making it Happen

The afternoon comprised of a workshop session that focused on how to implement and how to move forward the strategy to make it happen:

2.1 Mission

The WSPCR provides a good framework for the development of the CNRS with an adaptable and appropriate mission statement:

“To promote a ‘step change’ improvement in the quality and quantity of community nursing research in Wales and compete on a World stage with research of an international standard generating evidence that is locally applicable and internationally relevant to inform practice and policy in Wales and beyond”

2.2 Structure:

It was recommended that there would be two main structures to drive the initiative forward:

- Board, with representation
 - Disciplines and their professional networks
 - Academic Community Nursing
 - Professional Bodies
 - Director of Nursing – NHS Community Interest
- Advisory Board, with representation
 - Welsh Government
 - NHS – Directors of Nursing
 - Involving People representative
 - Professional Bodies
 - Academic specialists

2.3 Scoping the Challenge

The WSPCR scorecard framework was adapted to scope the current position of Community Nursing Research in Wales:

Nursing Area	4 Cs – Collaboration Capacity , Capability Capability	Realisation	Publication	Translation
Midwifery	No. of Community Nurses reg with Research Interest by area & level	No. Grants	No.	New Products and Solutions
District Nursing	No. Professors, Readers, Principal, Senior, Lecturer/Fellow	Grant Value	Location	New Practices
Practice Nursing	No. PhD, Master, Degree	By research priority and theme		Policy Updates
Etc...	How do we compare to the best?			Commercial Agreements/IP

The numbers of qualified Nurses working in the community in Wales could number in excess of 6,000

However, it was identified that we know very little about the community and primary care nursing workforce let alone what research they are doing. It was therefore recommended that a scoping study using the existing networks would be a first step to answer some of the key questions which are listed above.

2.4 Collaboration - Raising Awareness & Developing the Network

Key actions will include:

- Develop website – linked and managed by the WSPCR
 - Link to a membership/interest group database
 - Links to the individual disciplines and existing websites e.g. Institute of Health Visiting
 - Utilising social media where appropriate
 - List of projects/studies and priorities
 - Links to funding opportunities and sources
 - Career development & post graduate qualifications
 - CNR research - Masters, PhD, PhD & Fellowships
- PR campaign to launch the CNRS
 - Through existing communication structures

- Through new CNR structures
- Articles – Professional and Academic Journals
- Relevant stakeholder events – e.g. NISCHR research infrastructure
- Career development events
 - Community nursing events
 - Tailored events
 - Grant writing workshops
 - Writing for publication
 - Career progression – e.g. Nursing Directors now need PhDs
 - Post Graduate/Research Fellow Posts

2.5 Publishing & Translating

Sharing evidence is a key pillar of the CNRS and the following key areas were identified:

- Publications & Journals, for example
 - Nursing Standard
 - Primary health care
 - Practice nursing
 - Journal of school of nursing
 - RCN - Primary care
 - Nurse Research
 - British Journal of community nursing
 - Journal of advanced nursing
 - Health and social care in the community
 - Children and young people’s nursing
 - Community practitioner
- Links with Business and industry

2.6 Continuous Development

The Community Nursing Research Strategy (CNRS) will aim to continually develop:

- Intelligence – Linking
 - Clinical practice
 - Evidence
 - Teaching and professional development
 - Public health & health & Social care performance
 - Policy

- Bench marking – how does CNRS wales compare against its own targets and others e.g. Scotland

Acknowledgments

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