



AHPs engage with the transformation programme at the 'Moving Forward Together' AHP roadshows

In March the AHP programme team delivered the first in a planned series of 'AHP roadshows', bringing together AHPs to engage with proposals for actions to include in the AHP framework action plan.

The event was attended by AHPs representing almost all the different allied health professions and several different health and social care organisations.

Ruth Crowder, Chief Allied Health Professions Adviser, opened the roadshow. There were also presentations by Kerrie Phipps, National AHP Lead for Primary and Community Care, and by Laura Braithwaite, author of the AHP dementia framework. All the AHPs in attendance took part in their choice of 'action session' workshops – topics included digital services, workforce planning, health inequalities, community rehabilitation and health and wellbeing.

There were also several success stories from AHPs working across North Wales presented in a series of 'rapid 5s'. This included hearing about innovative work in

the prison service, palliative care, falls prevention, early screening interventions, and quality improvement.

The AHPs said the sessions were useful, informative and helpful. Most respondents said they felt their contribution was valued and they would recommend it to others.

More events are planned for 2023:

- **16 May** – Orbit Centre, Merthyr Tydfil
- **11 July** – National Botanic Garden of Wales, near Carmarthen
- **3 October** – Miskin Manor Hotel, Pontyclun



On 22 March, the virtual event 'AHP Leadership at EVERY level!' was held with 160 attendees from across Wales. The event featured presentations from a healthcare support worker, a newly qualified AHP talking about a student leadership placement, an AHP advanced clinical practitioner, an experienced AHP who does media engagements for a professional body, and an assistant director of therapies.

The clinical leadership fellows in the AHP programme also presented about the leadership opportunity presented by the fellowship. Feedback after the event was very positive. The presentations are going to be made available online for members of the Gwella leadership portal.

News round up

New lead for person-centred rehabilitation workstream

The AHP programme has welcomed Michelle Price as the new lead for the person-centred rehabilitation workstream. Michelle is an experienced consultant physiotherapist who has worked on several all-Wales projects and programmes in her career. Michelle has taken over from Gethin Harries, who continued supporting the programme until the end of March. All the team would like to wish Gethin well in his new role in Powys Teaching Health Board.

Rehabilitation in its broadest definition has never had a higher profile than it has now; politically and organisationally.

There have been some inroads to improving the quality of rehabilitation across Wales. In 2022 the AHP programme supported the development and publication of a refreshed version of the AHP rehabilitation framework, and there has been work on evaluating rehabilitation and the creation of a rehabilitation demand modelling resource.

The rehabilitation workstream of the AHP transformation programme aims to weave together the threads of rehabilitation that run through all the strategic programmes to share learning and accelerate improvements in rehabilitation services across Wales.

Key aspects of the AHP programme's workstream include:

- developing best practice standards for community rehabilitation
- promoting the rehabilitation demand modelling resource to enable organisations to ensure their services are delivering the rehabilitation that people need
- working to develop social prescribing competencies to enhance rehabilitation services.

Best practice standards for community rehabilitation

Clinical Leadership Fellow Rhian Harrington is establishing all-Wales community rehabilitation best practice standards. These will be developed to ensure all AHPs in Wales have clear guidance on how best to support an equal and equitable Wales and to ensure that local populations have the same access to and provision of community rehabilitation services no matter where you live. This will support optimisation and management of health and wellbeing, ensuring all individuals are supported to achieve what matters to them.

Recently Rhian was invited to present her work at a national level in the first Chartered Society of Physiotherapy webinar series, discussing how these standards will transform community rehabilitation services.

High engagement with rehab social media campaign

The programme team developed a seasonal awareness-raising campaign called 'Do They Know It's Rehab?' in conjunction with the Healthcare Science programme in HEIW. The campaign illustrated the many ways that AHPs and healthcare scientists are involved in rehabilitation, sharing a mix of videos and blog posts every day for ten days. The videos were published on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Yammer.

The campaign included at least one video from each of the health boards in NHS Wales, with a range of specialist areas covered as well. It illustrates the huge breadth of staff working in the field of rehabilitation.

The campaign launched on social media on 5 December. All the videos and blog posts are available on [**the HEIW website**](#).

New video summarises key themes from prehabilitation event

- A summary of the prehabilitation spotlight event from summer 2022 was published on [**HEIW YouTube**](#) and social media channels in March 2023. If you would like to update the AHP or rehabilitation network about any local, national or international prehabilitation developments then please get in touch with the AHP programme.

AHP dementia framework presented to Senedd Cross-Party Group

On 21 March, the former clinical fellow, Laura Braithwaite, presented on her fellowship project, the AHP dementia framework at the Senedd Cross-Party Group on dementia. This was a virtual meeting and was a useful way of raising the profile of the AHP dementia framework that was launched in October 2022. Feedback in the meeting was unanimously positive and the AHP dementia framework was described as setting a "gold standard in coproduction". [**Read the framework on the Welsh Government website**](#).

Public health and prevention workstream programme expands

Green health and the sustainability agenda will be explored and incorporated into the public health and prevention workstream during the coming year. Prevention is key to developing sustainable services – as interventions can reduce demand on hospital services and need for medication, both of which are major contributions to the carbon footprint of NHS Wales.

AHPs can play a key role in meeting the commitment to net zero healthcare in Wales at an individual and system level. The AHP transformation programme supported the greener AHP week organised by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare in April. Greener AHP week focused on five priority areas for AHPs:

- digital healthcare
- public health and prevention
- food and diet
- use of equipment/single use plastics
- environmental sustainability literacy.

The Wales AHP Health Inequalities Network on the Gwella leadership portal has had a refresh and will bring together AHPs working to improve equity in care and impact on health inequalities. All AHPs interested in this network can request to join by emailing **HEIW.AlliedHealthProfessions@wales.nhs.uk**.

Addressing health inequalities in early years

Lucy Smothers, Clinical Leadership Fellow, is working with the AHP Public Health and Prevention Leads, Judith John and Catherine Pape towards achieving the goals set out in the **[UK AHP Public Health Strategic Framework 2019-24](#)**. The project work will also build on the guidance set out in **[the Kings Fund](#)**.

Lucy's project will co-produce a practitioner toolkit to maximise opportunity for AHPs to engage in and deliver interventions to reduce health inequalities in early years. The toolkit will build the knowledge and skills of AHPs working in early years, share good practice in the form of local case studies and signpost to resources and locally adaptable templates.

An early years health inequalities interest group has been formed with over 50 AHPs joining in the first two months. The AHPs are benefiting from the opportunity to network, share good practice and contribute to the formation of the toolkit, ensuring there is added value for the people who will use it.

A **[virtual spotlight session](#)** aimed at AHPs with an interest in early years called 'preventing a crisis in our next generation' has been scheduled for 7 June 2023.

If you would like to join the early years health inequalities interest group' please contact us on: **HEIW.AlliedHealthProfessions@wales.nhs.uk**.

Supporting you and your fellow AHPs to lead transformation

Are you a member of the AHP Transformation Network on the Gwella leadership portal?

Gwella gives users access to a range of leadership resources. The platform is available to everyone working in health and social care in Wales. In addition there are several key networks bringing together AHPs with common interests. The following networks are available on Gwella:

- Allied Health Professions Transformation Network – this is the main network supporting all AHPs in Wales to lead transformation across health and social care
- AHP Dementia Network for Wales
- All Wales Rehabilitation Network
- Wales AHP Health Inequalities Network
- AHPs in Quality Improvement and Research Network

Find out more on the [All-Wales AHP leadership hub on Gwella](#).

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