



Introduction

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of our national Allied Health Professions (AHP) Programme newsletter.

Programme news

We are thrilled to bring you updates from the AHP Transformation Programme. You may have joined us at our events in the past few months - we have started planning more future events. Keep an eye out for details of these later in the newsletter!

This September we are delighted to have been joined by two new AHP Welsh Clinical Leadership Fellows both working on projects to support the implementation of the AHP Framework.

The [AHP Annual Report for 2021-2022](#) has now been released, highlighting progress made during the past 12 months of the programme.



The AHP Programme has continued to develop its presence on Gwella, HEIW's leadership network, if you haven't already, please take the time to have a look at the available resources and join the relevant networks. By joining the networks you'll be able to keep up with all the latest news and information. To find out more or to join a network please [contact us via email](#).

Events

Prehabilitation Spotlight Session

The Prehabilitation Spotlight Session took place on 14 July 2022, led by All Wales AHP Person-centred Rehabilitation and Recovery lead Gethin Harries. The session was well attended by over a hundred participants. Speakers and expert panellists joined us from a number of health board and private sector organisations to discuss questions based on the pre-event questionnaire.

Next AHP Spotlight Session addresses cost of living crisis

The next AHP Spotlight event will take place on 6 October 2022. 'AHPs and the cost of living crisis: Optimising what we can offer' will outline the key areas of 'My role in tackling health inequalities: A framework for allied health professionals' (2021), with real examples of how AHPs in Wales contribute to the different areas and the potential impact they can have on people's ability to cope with the current crisis.

[Register to reserve your place now.](#)

Special spotlight on person-centred care as new AHP Frameworks Launch

Two new AHP frameworks will be launched this year on AHPs Day (14 October)! In a one-hour virtual event you will have the opportunity to hear from people with lived experience about the difference person-centred care makes to them. Alongside this, AHP Welsh Clinical Leadership Fellows Laura Braithwaite Stuart and Ross Nowell will be presenting the new national AHP frameworks covering Dementia and Rehabilitation. [Register to reserve your place now.](#)

AHP Cymru Conference 2023

Save the date for the next AHP Conference! The AHP Conference will be held on 2 March 2023 with options to attend virtually and in person at our venue in Cardiff. We look forward to getting to see many of you there in person.

To make sure you don't miss any future events or newsletters, sign up to [our mailing list](#).

Meet the allied health professional



In each edition of our newsletter, we will be shining a spotlight on one of our amazing AHPs.

In this edition, we meet Nicola Pritchard-Jones, an Advanced Orthoptist working in Nevill Hall Hospital, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

What does your job role as an AHP involve?

As an Orthoptist, our core role is to diagnose and treat eye movement defects and how the eyes work together. We see a wide caseload range that may be affecting vision, from misalignment of the eyes (squint), diplopia, reduced vision, and visual field loss. I am now involved within the stroke service provided by the Orthoptic department, and some of these issues can be a direct

impact of stroke due to defects in the nerves that communicate with the eyes. We work closely with the stroke MDT, providing assessment and diagnosis of potential eye problems, and then also assist to provide information and treatment in managing the eye symptoms.

What do you enjoy about your job?

I particularly enjoy the diverse range of patients we see; no two days are the same. Working closely with patients and building rapport with them, whilst striving to provide them the best possible care is very fulfilling. I enjoy working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, valuing everyone's input as part of the rehabilitation to the patient's recovery.

What are your career ambitions?

To continue to advocate the involvement of Orthoptists in the role of stroke rehabilitation, whilst continuing to learn and develop alongside my colleagues whether that be clinically or through further education.

How did you get into your role?

Studied at undergraduate level for BSc Orthoptics at University of Liverpool. I have completed a Masters level module in Neuro-Ophthalmology.

What kind of person does your job suit?

Someone who genuinely cares about people, providing a person-centred approach

to the patient's health and well-being. You need to have excellent communication skills and be adaptable and flexible in your approach.

If you would like to share your role and experience within the NHS, you can still complete the [AHP Job Profiles Survey](#). You can also check out some of the fantastic job profiles that we have already received from colleagues across all AHP disciplines on our [webpages](#).

What's going on

Stakeholder reference group will influence direction of programme

The AHP Programme in HEIW is establishing a stakeholder reference group (SRG). A priority for the group will be reviewing the actions included in the Allied Health Professions Framework for Wales. We will be sending invitations out shortly – if you are interested in learning more about this group, please contact us.

2022 Cymru Advancing healthcare awards

The 2022 Cymru Advancing Healthcare Awards will take place on 18 November 2022. The ceremony, which will recognise and celebrate work of AHPs and healthcare scientists across Wales, will be held in Cardiff. [Keep up to date](#) with the awards.

Social Prescribing Consultation

A public consultation has been launched by Welsh Government on a national framework for social prescribing. The framework would set a common set of standards and ensure consistent delivery. You can read more about this on the [Welsh Government website](#) or take a look at this [short film](#) created about the model and consultation. **The consultation closes 20 October 2022.**

Equipping AHP Students

Check out the [AHP Roles and Careers](#) area on our webpages. Here you'll find the latest information from and for AHP students, including a student peer resource for practice placement and resources from HCPC on supervision and the use of social media.

Wales Health Student Forum membership

Benefits of joining the forum include:

- Attendance at the forum meetings will be counted as placement hours for eligible professions
- Access to online resources and continued professional development (CPD) opportunities
- Audiences with inspirational speakers, careers networks, service users and post graduate students within their own fields
- Network with other healthcare professionals to promote interprofessional learning
- Discuss education issues relevant to healthcare students in Wales
- Network, discuss and engage with high profile figures in the NHS, Universities and Welsh Government.

You can sign up for the student forum here: [Wales Health Student Forum Registration](#) or by scanning this QR code.

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