

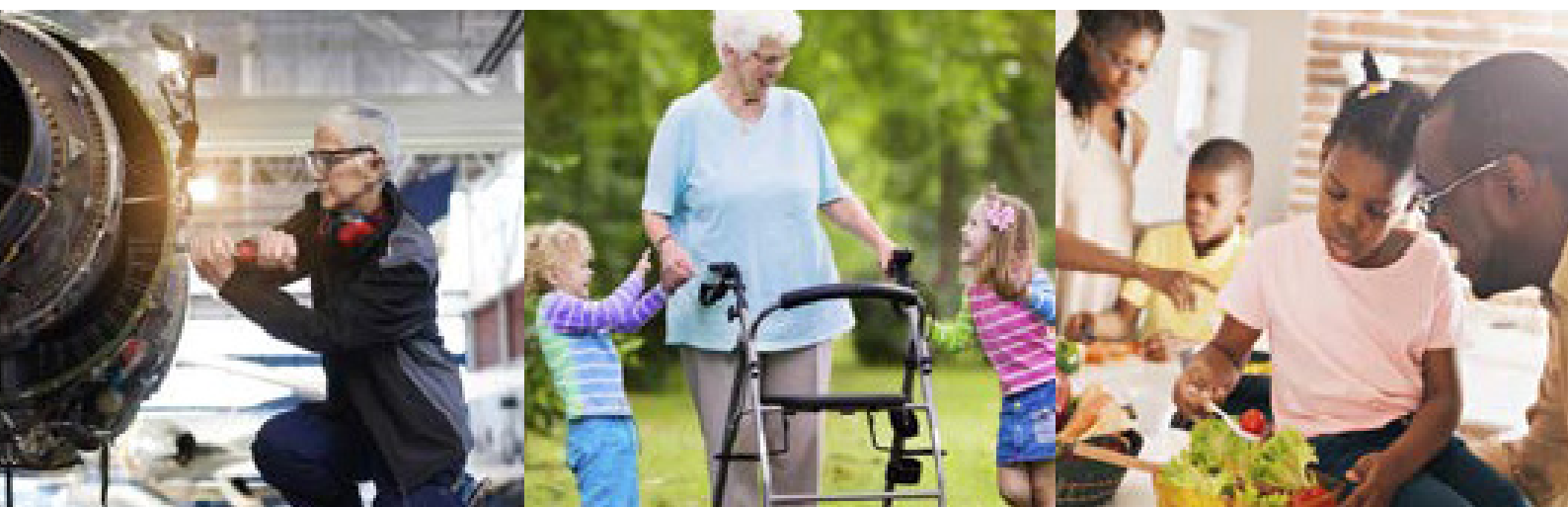
Allied Health Professionals

July 2021 Newsletter



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Addysg a Gwellu Iechyd
Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of our National Allied Health Professions Programme newsletter.

On 1 April 2021, Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) officially launched the implementation of the Allied Health Professions (AHP) Programme. This ambitious programme of work aligns priorities and aims from Welsh Government's [Allied Health Professions Framework: Looking Forward Together \(2019\)](#) with key policy and strategy.

'Looking Forward Together' sets out our vision and direction of travel for AHPs in Wales. Our AHP workforce has a reputation for improvement, innovation and creativity. There is strength in our diverse skillset and professional offer, as well as power in our adaptability and partnership working. In delivering the ambitions of the Framework, we will work collaboratively with our rich and diverse range of AHPs to transform AHP practice across health and social care in Wales.





We look forward to sharing updates on the programme, including how you can help to shape the future of AHPs in Wales. Our talented AHP workforce are key to the transformation of NHS Wales and are central to the delivery of high-quality care.

Vision Statement 2021 – 2030

Together AHPs lead transformational change. Their diversity inspires creativity and innovation in practice, education and research. Their multi-professional partnerships across health and social care empowers and enables the people of Wales to live healthier lives.

Introducing... Wendy Wilkinson, Head of Allied Health Profession Transformation

Hi! I'm Wendy Wilkinson, Head of Allied Health Professionals Transformation in HEIW.

I qualified as an Occupational Therapist from a small rural university in Australia and came to the UK for a working holiday... over 20 years ago! I moved to Wales in 2008 to accept a Macmillan Advanced Practice post, developing rehabilitation services for people affected by cancer in and around Swansea. This area of practice really intrigued me. I have always thrived in environments where teams work in an inter-disciplinary model.

I then moved into my first AHP leadership role with the Wales Cancer Network. There, I worked with a dynamic multi-disciplinary team whose focus was to support the cancer AHP and Nursing workforce in providing

high quality person-centred care. Working in an all-Wales team taught me so much about the dedication and enthusiasm with which the people of the NHS in Wales approach their roles. This made the decision to move into HEIW feel like a natural next step.

My role sits within the Nursing, AHP, Education and Commissioning Directorate with colleagues from nursing, healthcare science (HCS) and eye care. I started this new role just after COVID-19 social restrictions



In the time I have been working in HEIW, I have had the perfect opportunity to shout about the diverse offer that AHPs bring to the multi-disciplinary team, when dealing with complex and often uncertain health and social situations. To support the teams in practice, we have been able to develop some [learning resources that showcase the important role that rehabilitation has in meeting the](#)

The career paths available to us are limited only by the extent of our own imagination. My advice to all AHP colleagues (and I mean ALL - this isn't just about managers or clinical leads) is that compassionate leadership isn't about a pecking order. We all share a piece of this vision for the future. If you have an idea about something that could add value to the shape of the future workforce, please share. We are stronger together, and together, we have the potential to transform the future of health and social care in Wales.



Programme news

Last year we asked our AHP workforce to provide data on innovation and new ways of working during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response. We are proud to have collaborated with a variety of organisations across Wales to obtain thematic analysis of the AHP data and you can read the results in the NHS Wales COVID-19 Innovation and Transformation Study which will be published in June. The NHS Confederation hosted a webinar on 7 June highlighting key themes and learning from the NHS Wales COVID-19 Innovation and Transformation Study illustrated with specific case studies and examples. The webinar was an opportunity to discuss how we can sustain the adoption of innovative practice and transformative ways of



Our Partners:



working and examine how evidence from the COVID-19 Innovation Study can inform policymaking and service delivery in the future.



The HEIW Leadership Team, alongside Social Care Wales, are proud to launch the Compassionate Leadership Principles for Health and Social Care in Wales. The principles aim to create a shared language of what compassionate leadership is, and how it looks in practice. The development of the principles was supported by Professor Michael West and will play a significant role in achieving the Workforce Strategy ambition that 'by 2030 leaders in health and social care will display collective and compassionate leadership'.

You can download a copy of the leadership principles, view endorsements from Leaders and experts, and access resources

and further information via [Gwella](#). Whilst we are on the topic of leadership, all our workforce can access Gwella', the bi-lingual leadership portal for NHS Wales which offers a wide range of compassionate leadership and management resources curated from The King's Fund, Open University and colleagues across the other UK nations.

Don't delay, check it out today, <https://nhs.wales/leadershipportal.heiw.wales>.

The Allied Health Professions webpages are now live

On the webpages we will be sharing updates on the programme, providing information and useful links, and showcasing the breadth of AHPs in Wales via our job profiles booklet. These webpages will be continuously developed, and we welcome your suggestions on what you want to see from us.

We would love you to get involved by telling us what transformation means to you by adding to our transformation word cloud. This is your opportunity to help shape the vision of transformation for health and care in Wales and you can participate by clicking on the link below: <https://heiw.nhs.wales/transformation/>.

We hosted our first webinar

Our first AHP Programme webinar was held on Monday 28 June, 14:00 - 16:00.

The theme for the afternoon was 'Access: Accessibility and Responsiveness' with presentations from:

- **Wendy Wilkinson** - Head of Allied Health Professional Transformation
- **Ruth Crowder** - Chief Allied Health Professions Advisor
- **Natalie Elliot** - National Consultant AHP Lead for Dementia, and **Rebecca Hanmer** - Senior Improvement Manager Improvement Cymru
- **Lisa Williams** - All-Wales Nutrition Training Facilitator
- **Kerrie Phipps** - National AHP Lead for Primary and Community Care

The webinar will soon be available on the AHP Programme webpages via the HEIW website. Watch this space!

The graphic features a collage of images showing healthcare professionals and patients. On the left, it says 'Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)'. In the center, a calendar icon shows 'June 28'. To the right, the title 'Access: Accessibility and Responsiveness' is prominently displayed. Below the title, it says 'Join us for:' followed by a list of topics. At the bottom left, it specifies the time '14:00-16:00' and encourages to 'SAVE THE DATE: Live webinar'. Logos for GIG Cymru NHS Wales and Addysg a Gwellia Iechyd Cymru (AaGIC) Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) are in the top right corner.

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)

June 28

14:00-16:00

SAVE THE DATE:

Live webinar

Access: Accessibility and Responsiveness

Join us for:

- an Introduction to the AHP Framework
- AHPs in the all Wales context
- innovation in dementia services
- innovation in public health
- innovation in primary care
- panel Q&A

GIG Cymru NHS Wales

Addysg a Gwellia Iechyd Cymru (AaGIC) Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Meet the Allied Health Professional



In each edition of our newsletter, we will be shining a spotlight on one of our amazing AHPs. In our first edition, we meet Hayley Davies, a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist in the Blaenau Gwent Community Resource Team at Aneurin Bevan UHB.

My job role as an AHP is:

To support adults with a variety of communication and swallowing difficulties across a variety of settings including hospitals, outpatient services and in the community in Blaenau Gwent (nursing/ residential homes and people's homes). I work with individuals with a range of health conditions including dementia, stroke, motor neurone disease and head and neck cancer. My role involves a significant proportion of team working. In the community part of my role, I work alongside many other healthcare professionals as part of a multidisciplinary team aiming to improve and promote people's independence at home. This can involve rehabilitation where appropriate to ensure individuals can communicate and eat and drink as safely as possible and aims to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. I also deliver a significant amount of specialist training and education packages to carers, agencies and healthcare professionals to raise awareness of the speech & language therapy role, swallowing and communication difficulties and explain how best to support individuals with these difficulties.

What I enjoy about my job:

I love the variety of the role, working with a range of people and problem solving as a team to find solutions to complex clinical situations. I often work with individuals with multiple health conditions resulting in significant physical and cognitive difficulties. It is extremely rewarding to work with these individuals and their carers to maximise their communicative potential and ensure they can eat and drink as safely as possible.

My career ambitions:

I aim to develop the Speech and Language Therapy service within Blaenau Gwent locality. I have plans to deliver further training to nursing and residential homes in the area and work with voluntary agencies to develop communication support services for individuals with communication difficulties. Personally, I aim to embed academic research into my practice with aspirations to become a Clinical Academic Speech & Language Therapist.

How did i get here:

I completed an undergraduate degree in English Language and Communication (BA) followed by volunteering with the Stroke Association charity and in a language unit in a mainstream primary school. I then worked as a speech and language therapy assistant for a number of years before undertaking the MSc in Speech and Language Therapy. There are two routes to qualify to practise as a speech & language therapist - you can undertake the undergraduate BSc Speech & Language Therapy courses (3-4 year courses) or the MSc/PGDip Speech & Language Therapy courses (2 year courses) following completion of a relevant undergraduate degree such as psychology, linguistics, languages.

What kind of person does your job suit?

Likes working with a wide range of people in various settings, is flexible, has excellent communication skills, enjoys problem solving and helping others.

We need your help

We are looking for individuals from across AHPs in Wales to participate in our job profiles survey. The purpose of the questionnaire is to collect a variety of 'job profiles' outlining the following:

- the variety of AHPs
- the different levels of career progression
- the different routes in education and training that lead to becoming an AHP
- an insight into the different job roles and responsibilities of a variety of individuals

These profiles will be used in a number of ways to promote the breadth of careers available for AHPs and to showcase the amazing work you undertake, making a difference to the lives of people every day.

You can complete the AHP Job Profiles Survey now. You can also check out some of the fantastic job profiles that we have received from colleagues across all AHP disciplines below:

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/transformation/allied-health-professions/job-profiles/>.

Advancing Healthcare Awards

Now more than ever it is important to recognise our AHPs and to shine a light on the incredible work that you do, and the Advancing Healthcare Awards (AHA) did exactly that. The awards showcased examples of innovative practice throughout the UK and assisted AHPs in communicating their key role in health and social care to a variety of audiences.

Flying the flag for AHPs in Wales were the joint winners of the Chroma Award for Innovation in Neurorehabilitation – Kate Baker, Macmillan Deputy Head of Therapies at Velindre University NHS Trust. The development of a Neuro-Oncology AHP Clinic was a joint approach to neuro-oncology with occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and clinical nurse specialists to assess and manage the holistic symptoms and functional difficulties of patients' pre-treatment. The judges commented that "a key element of the work was a resolution of fragmented services, bringing together various AHP disciplines within a virtual clinic – first phase being assessment, followed by a rehabilitation clinic".



Congratulations to everyone involved in this fabulous project – a well-deserved award! We also saw the work of Janine Evans and Laura Ingham from Swansea Bay University Health Board, who led on the Burn Prevention for Older Adults: a role for Occupational Therapists project. The project was a finalist in the Faculty of Public Health and Public Health England Award for Contributions to Public Health. Collaboration between the

burns Occupational Therapy service, Research & Development Occupational Therapy and academic colleagues was key in facilitating the undertaking of a scoping exercise to engage relevant stakeholders and partner organisations.

You can find out more details on the finalists and awards via the [AHA Awards website](#).

A Healthier Wales: Moving forward together

The Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists 'All Wales' Conference & Awards 2021 are back for 2021!

On Thursday 25 November WAHPC and WSAC will be holding a virtual one-day conference.

This will be followed on Friday 26 November (3-5pm) by the Advancing Healthcare Awards Wales ceremony organised by Chamberlain Dunn.

These events will be an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the important and innovative work of allied health professionals and healthcare scientists across Wales.

For more information and to enter visit www.ahawards.co.uk/wales/.



Mental Health Awareness Month – Health for Health Professionals

It is now more important than ever to look after our mental health, especially during challenging times. Health for Health Professionals Wales is a free, confidential service now available to all Health Professionals and Healthcare Students working in NHS Wales. This includes you as allied health professionals.



You can find more information via the Health for Health Professionals website.

Wales Health Student Forum membership

The Wales Health Student Forum (WHSF) is a multidisciplinary forum comprising of pre-registration students from healthcare courses being delivered in Wales, with a passion for shaping the learning experiences for current and future students.

The WHSF is open to all healthcare students and empowers 'students to support students'.

Join the Forum by filling in the following form, [Wales Health Student Forum registration](#) or by scanning this QR code.



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