**School of Health Sciences Research and Impact Plan 2024-2028**

**Ambition**

**We will build and sustain a collaborative and supportive research culture underpinned by our track record of internationally recognised and world leading research. Our commitment to research excellence will address major health and care challenges and enable world-leading research and innovation with national and global impact on people, policy and practice.**

**Principles and values underpinning our research**

* **Ethical research with integrity**: our research is conducted to the highest standards of practice, embedding honesty, rigour, accountability, care and respect for participants, transparency and open communication.
* **Public involvement and engagement (PPIE):** our research places those with lived experiences of the topics we research at the heart of our activities and we embed co-production across the research life-cycle. We uphold the [UK Standards for Public Involvement](https://sites.google.com/nihr.ac.uk/pi-standards/home).
* **Equality, diversity and inclusion**: in our workplace, we strive to ensure everyone can feel safe, be themselves and their contribution is valued. We embed the Athena SWAN Principles and the University’s equality and diversity policy. In our research we endeavour to minimise inequalities by ensure diverse representation and supporting the needs of our participants to enable involvement.
* **Bilingualism and the Welsh language**: we adhere to and promotes the University Welsh Language Policy and Action Plan. We ensure all our public facing material is bilingual and support the Active Offer for research participants.

**Aims**

* Address major health and care challenges through novel, world-leading research with a public focus that delivers impact regionally, nationally and globally.
* Commit to the sustainability and growth of our research base in existing areas of demonstrated research excellence.
* Be, visionary, innovative and responsive to new opportunities through collaborative interdisciplinary research that expand our research and methodological excellence e.g. the rapidly evolving areas of digital health technology, climate change and health.

**Objectives**

* Maintain and increase successful grant capture from prestigious full economic cost funders (e.g. UKRI, NIHR, Horizon Europe)**.**
* Enable career growth for all researchers, and support early and mid-career researchers to become future research leaders with their own portfolios through coaching and mentoring.
* Strengthen strategic collaborations and partnerships within the university, with other academic institutions, the NHS, social care, third sector to enable world-leading interdisciplinary research.
* Enhance research impact by ensuring research is co-produced with external partners (e.g. NHS, social care, third sector), patients and the public.
* Maintain and increase the number of doctoral research students by seeking scholarship funding to attract excellent students e.g. through the opportunities with the new ESRC Welsh Graduate School for the Social Sciences.
* Expand research-led teaching to support innovative development of new undergraduate and post-graduate teaching programmes, enabling students to benefit from the latest knowledge and enhance their learning experience.

**Research in SHS**

Research in SHS spans a wide range of disciplinary strengths and focuses on contemporary global ‘grand challenges’ that underpin health and well-being across the life-course.

Collectively, we investigate and generate solutions that address:

* Health and social care services innovation and improvement
* Early years and support for parents
* Supporting mental health at different life-course stages
* Inequality, inequity and underserved populations
* Risk reduction and early intervention/prevention of illness across the life-course
* Health and care challenges of ageing populations, people living with dementia and unpaid carers

Our successes are enabled by:

* Local, regional and national partnerships with NHS health boards, local authority/social care; third sector organisations.
* National and international collaborations e.g. World Health Organisation, Eurocarers.
* National and international partnerships with other universities.

**Organisation**

Our research reflects seven strategically important areas across four research centres and groupings. These are aligned with the College of Medicine and Health’s strategic pillars of understanding human health, reducing risk and promoting recovery, and health and care across the lifespan.

1. **Research excellence in our skills**

SHS develops researchers with excellent skills in quantitative methods, mixed-methods and qualitative methods; systematic, realist and scoping review methods; outcome measurement development, complex intervention development and evaluation in health and social care; public health and health economics; public engagement and co-production. SHS includes world leading experts in health economics and qualitative evidence synthesis, and our reputation is recognised through formal appointments to the development of regional and national health and social care policy and practice developments.

1. **Health economic evaluation**

The [Public Health and Prevention Economics Research Group](https://www.bangor.ac.uk/cheme/public-health-and-prevention-economics-research) (PHERG) within the [Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation](https://cheme.bangor.ac.uk/) (CHEME) has a track record of internationally-recognised research excellence of economic evaluations alongside trials of public health, psycho-social and other non-pharmacological interventions, along with use of novel study designs in public health.

1. **Well-being valuation**

The [Social Value Hub](https://cheme.bangor.ac.uk/social-value-hub/index.php.en) at the [Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation](https://cheme.bangor.ac.uk/) (CHEME) explores wider themes of health, well-being and well-becoming across the life course and employs a growing methodological toolbox including social return on investment to evaluate novel interventions and services promoting co-production of better physical and mental health across the life-course. This expanded methodological toolbox also enables the evaluation of health and well-being relational to place and climate change.

1. **Addressing the health and care inequalities of unpaid carers and people living with dementia**

Established in 1999, the [Dementia Services Development Centre](https://dsdc.bangor.ac.uk/research.php.en) in the School of Health Sciences has sustained an international reputation for theoretical and applied interdisciplinary research, investigating psychosocial and digital interventions, services and policies to support good outcomes for older people, people living with dementia and unpaid carers, with recent new investigations focussing on young carers. This has developed in parallel with legislative changes relating to carers’ rights, the assessment of their needs and the introduction of global and national dementia action plans.

1. **The social determinants of mental illness across the life-course**

[The Centre for Mental Health and Society](https://cfmhas.org.uk/) is a collaboration between clinicians and social scientists. We are interested in the physical, mental and social well-being of people who are marginalised, whether through mental illness or social adversity, and the impact on their physical health. We conduct qualitative and quantitative research, and research synthesis. Our current projects range from epidemiological and descriptive research through to trials of complex interventions.

1. **Prevention of health inequalities due to chronic conditions, disability and adverse childhood experiences**

The population health and wellbeing group undertake world leading health service and social care research that focusses on child health, chronic conditions, public health and disability, improving the quality and safety of hospital care through medical leadership.

1. **Social care research**

The school undertakes internationally recognised social care research with local and national impact, considering issues at system level through to the individuals and family. A major established theme is our research on unpaid carers embedded in the [Dementia Services Development Centre](https://dsdc.bangor.ac.uk/research.php.en), delivering training and support for social care professionals through our involvement in the [Developing Evidence Enriched Practice programme](https://www.deepcymru.org/en/the-team) and embedding co-production in our activities. New international research is underway that will enhance care provision for women who have experienced sexual violence and abuse.

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| **Governance** |
| Strategy period | 2024-2028 |
| Strategy review arrangements | The strategy will be reviewed annually by the School of Health Sciences Executive Committee and will complement the overall vision of the School of Health Sciences and align with Bangor University planning rounds. |
| Last reviewed | The strategy was reviewed and approved by the SHS Executive on 07/03/2024 |