







HM Prison & Probation Service in Wales

# Integrated Research within an OPDP context – Learning from Wales

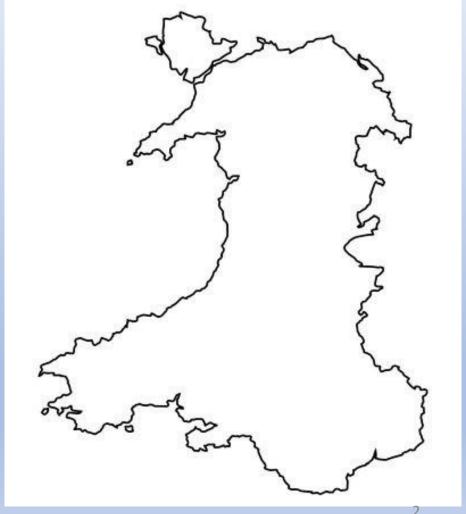
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# Integrated Research within the Offender Personality Disorder Pathway (OPDP)

- Embedded from the outset (2013)
- One lead for research, one full-time researcher
  - Temporary research assistants
  - Six MSc students to date
  - Two additional PhDs underway
  - Ongoing expansion
- Work spans the length and breadth of the country
- Guided by central OPDP strategy objectives and informed by local processes



#### What guides OPD research in Wales?

- Central OPD objectives
  - Reduced reoffending
  - Improved psychological health, well-being, pro-social behaviour and relational outcomes
  - Improved confidence, competence and attitudes of staff
  - Increased efficiency, costeffectiveness and quality of OPD services

- Local team input
  - Feedback on service delivery
  - Training needs
  - Areas for prioritisation

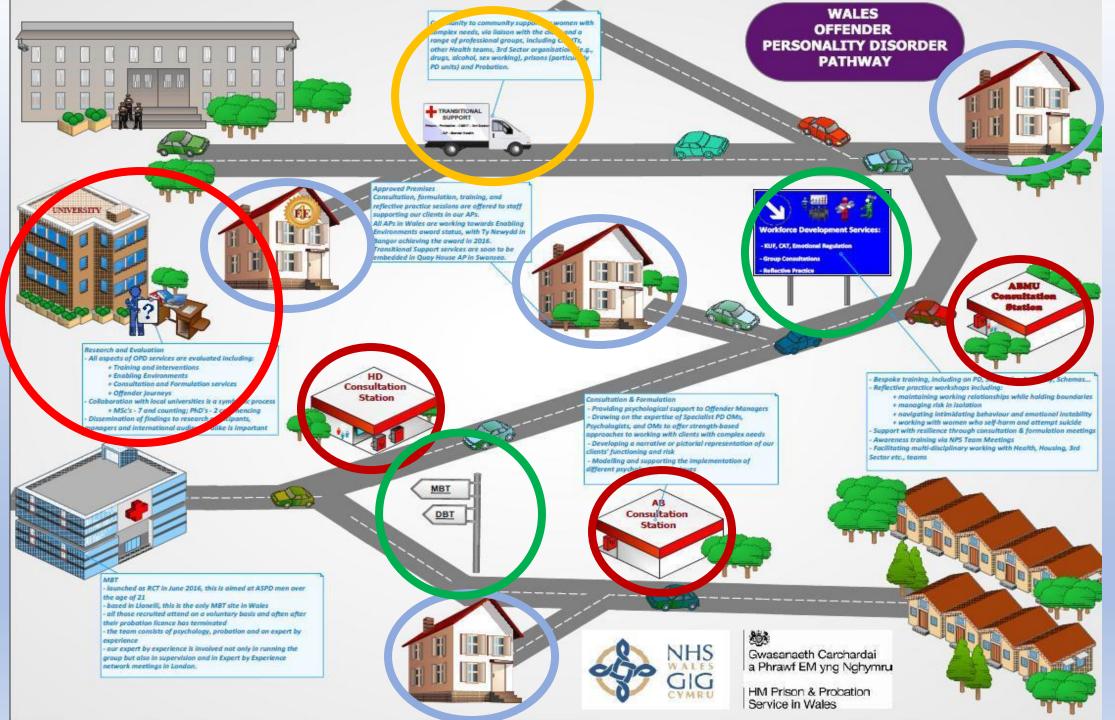


- Central OPD Research strategy
  - Pathway Research
  - Workforce Development
  - Treatments/Community
  - Women

#### National Research strategy priorities

- Pathway Research
- Workforce Development
- Treatments/Community
- Women

- Consultation processes
- Formulations
- Women's needs and experiences
- OPD screening processes and service delivery
- Enabling Environments evaluation
- Training evaluations
- Transitional support services
- OPD cohort needs analysis



## Keeping connected with academia



MSc projects - E

- Enabling Environments (x 3)

- Consultation experiences

- Women's experiences

- KUF training impact

PhD projects

- Formulations

- OPD screening tool utility / consultation processes

- IIRMS evaluation

## Consultation processes in the OPD Pathway

- Mixed methods study exploring the -
  - Goals offender managers have in OPD consultations
  - Actions generated within consultation meetings
  - Outcomes and benefits of these consultations
- A component of the PhD exploring OPD functions and utility
- Running for three years in current format
  - evolved over time in response to feedback from the local team
- Almost 1,000 responses gathered to date
- Rich qualitative data gathered
  - routinely fed back to local team to inform service developments

## Women's needs and experiences of CJS

- A 3-part study addressing offender perspectives and OM accounts
  - Mixed methods surveys and interviews
  - Community interviews conducted by OPDP staff for MSc
  - Interview analysis IPA and thematic approaches
- Very low response rate to surveys quantitative findings not generalisable
- Interview studies support the view that trauma and disjointed systems
  contribute substantially to "revolving door" scenarios with women offenders
  and highlight the importance of fostering relational security between
  probation officers and their clientele

#### **Enabling Environments**

- Mixed methods study with a dynamic protocol to account for changes in the implementation process
- Began in October 2014 with two Approved Premises
- Expanded November 2015 to include one prison currently gathering data in 4 prisons
- Research Assistant working exclusively on this project
- No impact data yet but several outputs from findings to date

## Offender Personality Disorder Screening Tool

- Quantitative study forming one component of a PhD
- Access granted to over 176,000 case records
- This study will -
  - Explore the psychometric properties and function of PD screen items
  - Address the role and function of additional items
  - Explore any additional contributions from the rest of OASys item pool
  - Explore gender differences in screening outcomes
  - Investigate correlations with other screens (Learning Difficulty, maturity)
- Implications for OPDP processes and establishing an evidence base are key to this study

#### The Benefits of Integrated Research

#### Time

- EE study a one-year project would have been terminated time allowed for evolution with organisational developments
- Women's study delays over a year to gain access to prison population
- Consultation data (N = 1,000) provide a steady timeline of Pathway development – time allowed dynamic study refinement in keeping with action research principles

#### Access

- PD screen study substantial quantities of highly sensitive and secure data
- Connection with Transitional Support nurse allowed unrestricted access to women in prison
- Team meetings inform development of projects relevant to team processes

## The Benefits of Integrated Research

#### Money

- Lead researcher (one day a week) plus one full-time researcher we're very cheap!
- Links with universities mean student support is extremely cost-effective –
   supervision and data access in return for data input and analysis

#### • Dynamic service

- Continuous feedback to local team provides reassurance that work is meaningful
- Input from the team and from leadership helps keep studies relevant and responsive to needs of the service
- Findings impact on service delivery women's study findings helped guide
   Transitional Support service while in pilot mode
- Making researchers out of practitioners mental health nurses, psychologists and specialist probation officers contributing to publications and guiding research objectives

#### Limitations of the Welsh approach

- Small team can't do everything we'd like
- Mostly local in focus unsure if replicating work in other areas
- No service-user input aiming to rectify this

#### Conclusions

- Integrated research works well in a dynamic service like the OPD Pathway
- Straightforward to implement
- Important to take an adaptive approach and roll with service developments
- Linking with local universities and services can be beneficial

# Thank you very much for listening

For more information on any of our studies or processes, or to request publications, contact:

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