



Wales Equality and Diversity in Health and Social
Care Research and Support Service

Gwasanaeth Cydraddoldeb ac Amrywioldeb Cymru mewn
Cefnogi Iechyd ac Ymchwil Gofal Cymdeithasol

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Research News & Information

Concepts of Diversity: race culture and ethnicity – A seminal paper discussing the relationships between, race, culture, and ethnicity and exploring the concept of ethnic diversity and the categorisation of ethnic groups.

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/research/csri/ethnicityhealth/aspects_diversity/concepts/

Excerpt from website - In approaching the issue of ethnicity and diversity in health we need to be aware of a complex and contentious history in the evolution of ideas and terminology. Traditional anthropology defined four major human 'races', usually described as 'Caucasian' ('white' or European), 'Negroid' (Black or African), 'Mongoloid' (Asian, Chinese or Indic), and 'Australoid' (that is, the group of people described as 'Aboriginal' to Australia). These groups assumed that race was a bio-scientific concept explaining significant biological differences between populations. This concept of race is now firmly discredited by modern genetics. Over 99% of the genetic makeup of human beings is common to all ethnic groups. Those differences that do exist between people and populations are minor and largely reflect superficial physical characteristics ('phenotypes') such as facial features, hair or skin colour. In this sense the division of people into 'races' reflects social decisions rather than having any real scientific justification, but is based on fallacious genetic/biological associations.

Culture is a complex social phenomenon and its definition problematic. It consists of the shared beliefs, values and attitudes that guide the behaviour of group members. The concept of 'ethnicity' is more complex, but recognises that people identify themselves with a social grouping on cultural grounds including language, lifestyle, religion, food and origins. The basis of 'ethnicity' is thus often a tradition of common descent or intermarriage and shared culture or history. It is essential to recognise that, in a world of migration and mixing, cultures and societies are dynamic rather than fixed.

When considering the causes of ill health and approaches to its prevention or care, it is necessary to consider the individual at risk, or the group to which they belong, in a holistic manner. The problem is using categories that most effectively describe key factors relevant to, for example, susceptibility to poor health or health outcomes. *Full article available on website.*

Launch of the new cross-Government employment strategy for people with learning disabilities: Valuing Employment Now - real jobs for people with learning disabilities published on 24 June 2009.

The Government launched Valuing Employment Now - real jobs for people with learning disabilities. This sets out an ambitious goal to increase radically the number of people with learning disabilities in employment by 2025. The Government wants as many as possible of these jobs to be at least 16 hours per week. We aspire to close the gap between the employment rate of people with learning disabilities and that of the disabled population as whole. The current employment rate for disabled people as a whole is 48%. Closing this gap in today's terms would mean around 45,000 more people with learning disabilities in work than we believe is currently the case.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101401

Funding Opportunities

NISCHR Health and Social Care Studentship Scheme - NOW OPEN

Applications are invited under the 2009 call of the NISCHR Health Studentship Scheme. Ten PhD Studentships are available for health research and ten for social care research (20 in total). There is no closing date for applications. Applications will be processed as they are received and the call will close once all available studentships have been awarded. WORD expects a high number of applications and so it is likely that the places will be filled within a short period of time. Applications should come from supervisors with named students in mind. All studentships awarded under this call must start within the current (2009-10) financial year. For more details and application forms contact: WORD@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

Vitae innovate: first call for bids

Vitae is a national organisation championing the personal, professional and career development of doctoral researchers and research staff in higher education institutions and research institutes. We play a major role in the drive for high-level skills and innovation and in the UK's goal to produce world class researchers. This fund recognises an opportunity to build on the excellent work undertaken to date, especially in response to the Roberts review of 2002 and the 2007 Concordat to support the career development of researchers. It aims to encourage the introduction of innovative approaches or projects into the researcher development field. The deadline for bids to the first round of funding is 31 July 2009. Further information can be found at www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate.

The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI)/Burdett Trust for Nursing Fund for Innovation and Leadership.

This new funding partnership will support nurse-led local projects which aim to improve the care of patients and to enhance the leadership skills of nurses. We support innovative projects, led by community nurses, midwives or health visitors, which set up new services or improved ways of working for the benefit of patients. All project leads will benefit from the QNI's support including a unique and highly-rated programme of developmental workshops during their project year. The programme will aim to achieve sustainable innovation in services and a new cohort of confident nurse leaders for the future. Grants of up to 5,000GBP for each project are available in addition to a full year programme of professional development and support.

Website: <http://www.qni.org.uk/project-funding/fund-for-innovation.html>

Closing date for applications: 28 September 2009

Bupa Foundation Philip Poole-Wilson Seed Corn Fund

The maximum award is 20,000GBP and it is expected that activities funded would be completed within a year. To nurture new research ideas, the new Philip Poole-Wilson Seed Corn Fund will consider exploratory/pilot research projects in any of the Foundation's areas of interest:

- surgery
- preventive medicine and epidemiology
- health information and communication between patients and health professionals
- health at work
- mental health of older people

If you are a health care professional involved in research or university based researcher with an interest in health or social care with a great idea for new research in one of these areas, you can apply for a grant to help you develop your ideas. This could be to support pilot work, for example, or to bring together a team of people to work on a proposal. Website: <https://grants.bupafoundation.co.uk>

Deadline for receipt of applications: 31 August 2009, 31 March 2010, 30 September 2010.

Events

Sickle Cell awareness month

July is Sickle Cell Awareness Month in UK and events are taking place across the country. Sickle cell anaemia is a life-long blood disorder which affects mostly people of African and African Caribbean ancestry. It is the most common genetic disorder in the UK. Symptoms are constant or sudden pain, poor vision and hip problems. Victims have crescent-shaped instead of round red blood cells and these cause damage in any part of the body. When both parents are carriers, there is a one in four chance of having a child with sickle cell anaemia.

Adult Autism Strategy – Your views on the needs of Adults with ASC

Purpose of the research

The government is currently running a consultation on a strategy for adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). At the moment there is a gap in what is provided for adults with ASC and this consultation has put forward some ideas that it wants to get feedback on. Alongside this consultation, Opinion Leader have been commissioned to speak to people with ASC, their families/carers and professionals who work with them in an effort to better understand their needs.

The first stage of the research aims to allow people with ASC, their families/carers and professionals the opportunity to talk about their needs, expectations, views and experiences (either in person, on the telephone, or via internet chat).

The second stage of the research will look at generating practical solutions to overcoming any barriers that people with ASC face in the lives.

The research will go towards helping the Government develop its adult autism strategy, which will be launched at the end of 2009.

Research Period : 29th June to the 30th July 2009

They are looking for: People with ASC – a range of people from different backgrounds, on different levels of severity on the autism spectrum, families of people with ASC (who may also be carers) and carers of people with ASC

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Articles for this bulletin were received from our sister e-group (minority ethnic health - MINORITY-ETHNIC-HEALTH@JISCMAIL.AC.UK), our OPAN colleagues (<http://www.opanwales.org.uk>), our PHIRN colleagues (www.phirn.org.uk) Dave O'Carroll of RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre, the Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales (BVSNW) and members of the WEDHS network. To find out more about WEDHS, visit our website at www.wedhs.org.uk. Please contact Dr Susanah Kimani (skimani@glam.ac.uk) if you wish to include an item in the next bulletin.