Our Mission is:

To make a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the population of Wales through applied research, and make Wales a world leader in population health science.

We will do this by:

(1) Generating an evidence base for public health policies, services and interventions.

(2) Working with others to implement the findings of our research on a large enough scale to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of Wales' population.
For more information on the NCPHWR, or to get involved in what we do, please contact Helen Green (NCPHWR Knowledge Transfer Officer) on helen.green5@wales.nhs.uk or 02921 841724.

You can also find more information on the NCPHWR’s website, www.ncphwr.org.
Welcome to the second annual report of the National Centre for Population Health & Wellbeing Research (NCPHWR), covering its activities during 2016-17. The NCPHWR has been established as a way of bringing together the internationally recognised researchers and infrastructure we have in Wales for carrying out research into population health and wellbeing.

The NCPHWR has been funded by Health and Care Research Wales to enable more great research to be done in Wales, by bringing together its researchers, clinicians, policymakers, research infrastructure, third sector and members of the public to:
• Bring in more research funding from around the UK to fund new research projects.
• Produce research findings from these new projects.
• Help turn the research findings into real-world benefits, such as better public services.

We are continuing to enable a large number of successful funding bids to be created. During our second year, 69 bids have so far been successful, securing a total of £3.7 million in funding. This brings the total amount of research funding secured since the launch of the NCPHWR to over £15 million.

Some of our earlier funding awards are beginning to produce research findings and impact outside academia. For example, reports produced by our School Health Research Network (SHRN), Health & Attainment of Pupils in a Primary Education Network (HAPPEN), and British Heart Foundation-funded ACTIVE Project are all being used by schools and local authorities to improve the way their services are delivered.

We are also working to increase the amount of research used by public services and government to inform their decisions. A number of events were held during the year to bring policymakers, clinicians, managers and academics together to identify the barriers public service staff face around using more research, and find ways to overcome them. These events also acted as “matchmaking” sessions, finding NHS, third sector and government staff who needed more research on particular areas, and putting them in contact with NCPHWR researchers working in those fields.

We also engaged directly with the public through a variety of different events and social media, spreading the word about our research and its benefits, and seeking public input to improve the quality of our research.

I hope you enjoy reading our second annual report, and look forward to a third year of great research and engagement to help improve the health and wellbeing of Wales’ people.

Professor Ronan Lyons
Director, National Centre for Population Health & Wellbeing Research
The National Centre for Population Health & Wellbeing Research (NCPHWR) has been established to carry out research to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Wales. It is funded by the Welsh Government through Health and Care Research Wales.

The NCPHWR’s main aims are to:
- Develop new collaborations and partnerships between researchers, clinicians, policymakers and others, so that new research ideas can be generated and funding obtained to carry out new research.
- Carry out cutting-edge research across public health improvement, health informatics and applied epidemiology.
- Increase Wales’ ability and capacity to carry out more research in these areas in future.
- Help turn the research we produce into improvements in people’s health and wellbeing, and speed up this process of translating research into real-world benefits.

The NCPHWR brings together expertise from across:
- Welsh Universities (Swansea, Cardiff and Bangor).
- The NHS and Third sector (Public Health Wales NHS Trust and Children in Wales).
- Five Research Council UK Centres of Excellence: Farr Institute of Health Informatics Research, CLIMB (microbiology), DECIPHer (public health improvement), UK Dementias Platform, and the Administrative Data Research Centre Wales.
- Existing research networks, including:
  - The Public Health Improvement Research Network (PHIRN).
  - The School Health Research Network (SHRN).
  - The Wales Arthritis Research Network.

### Our Main Areas of Work

Our work is organised into the following areas:

- Public Health Improvement
- Informatics & Epidemiology
- Knowledge Transfer
- Engagement

### Organisations in the NCPHWR:

- GIG NHS Wales
- Ichyd Cymru
- Public Health Wales
- Swarm University
- Prifysgol Abertawe
- CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
- PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY
- Children in Wales
- Plant yng Nghymru
The purpose of this Work Package is to develop research that enables and supports improvements in public health and wellbeing, particularly health and social care services in community settings.

Key achievements during 2016/17 include:

- Securing 17 funded studies worth a total of £3.3m, bringing the total secured since the NCPWHR’s launch to £8.9m.

- Increasing Wales’ capacity in public health improvement research. Since the NCPHWR’s launch, eight new PhDs and four Postdoctoral Fellowships have been secured, and seven researchers have become first time principal investigators.

Examples of recent funding the NCPHWR helped secure include:

- Examining the Impact of e-cigarette regulation via the EU Tobacco Products Directive on young people’s use of e-cigarettes and tobacco.

- The JACK Trial - An intervention to reduce teenage pregnancy and promote positive sexual health.

- Understanding secondary effects of parental alcohol use on young people’s educational and health outcomes.

The Jack Trial - see:  
http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/IfIWereJack/TheJackTrial/
The School Health Research Network (SHRN) extends to over 50% (115) of secondary schools throughout Wales. This makes it the largest national network of its kind in the world, with 39,000 pupil participants.

SHRN provides a research-ready schools infrastructure that has created and supported 15 current funded research studies to date.

SHRN also provides data to inform schools’ own planning activities through the provision of biannual tailored and benchmarked school health profiles. This gives schools a better picture of their pupils’ health and how it has changed over time. Through this, SHRN has been able to influence policy and practice in a significant number of schools.

SHRN research results have been implemented across Wales by the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools.

For example, the paper *Variations in schools’ commitment to health and implementation of health improvement activities: a cross-sectional study of secondary schools in Wales*, showed there was no “inverse care law” for health interventions in schools (i.e. interventions do not generally work less well in more deprived schools, or vice versa). This finding is being disseminated across Wales to inform policymakers and practitioners.
This theme aims to increase the amount of research done to understand the causes and consequences of ill-health, diseases injury and wellbeing. It also focuses on using advanced Information Technology to carry out more and better research; for example, making it easier and more effective to use electronic data to answer researchers’ questions.

The NCPHWR funded one of four research development meetings held to build collaboration between the four UK home nations, the Republic of Ireland, Netherlands and Sweden on child maltreatment research.

The aim is to build a collaboration and work towards creating a common international dataset to evaluate the distribution of and other factors around child maltreatment.

If successful, this could provide policymakers and health, education and law enforcement professionals with an unique insight into patterns and characteristics of child maltreatment across different parts of Europe.

Baseline scoping work is now underway to underpin a future application for European funding.

Case Study: BaSAT

Professor Alison Kemp’s work has informed a Burns and Scalds Assessment Template (BaSAT), which has been established in 12 Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units in Wales and England.

This is sustaining the ongoing BaSAT database, which records health, distribution and other information on children seen in Emergency Departments with burns.

This database provides a valuable source of data to base future research on. Our researchers are currently awaiting a 2018 research funding call from the Scar Free Foundation to continue this work.
Informatics & Epidemiology

Grant applications currently being developed include:

- Health outcomes during childhood associated with small mineral deposits on the heart.
- The health and education effect of traumatic experiences on looked after children.
- A follow-up study to investigate the relationship between different risk factors for alcohol-related harm in children and young people.

NCPHWR’s Dr Sarah Rodgers is leading a new project funded by the National Institute of Health Research into how the environment people live in affects their health and wellbeing.

Using large-scale data from 1.7 million people, the study team is looking at whether people who are more exposed to “blue-green space” (such as parks, woodlands or beaches) are happier and diagnosed with fewer mental health problems.

The results could be used to help planners to create healthier towns and cities, and help them evaluate the impacts of future environmental and planning changes.

Research in Development

Grant applications currently being developed include:

- Health outcomes during childhood associated with small mineral deposits on the heart.
- The health and education effect of traumatic experiences on looked after children.
- A follow-up study to investigate the relationship between different risk factors for alcohol-related harm in children and young people.

NCPHWR support helped secure funding from the British Heart Foundation for an evaluation of a scheme designed to increase teenagers’ activity levels by providing vouchers to spend on different sports and other activities.

Led by the NCPHWR’s Professor Sinead Brophy, this research began in early 2017 to widespread media coverage, including ITV Wales evening news, the Western Mail, BBC Radio Wales and Radio Cymru, the Wave radio and Bay TV stations.

The ACTIVE scheme is carried out in partnership with the local council and a number of schools in the Swansea area, and has led to changes in how services are delivered based on recommendations from teenagers.

The ACTIVE scheme - [http://www.swansea.gov.uk/activeswansea](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/activeswansea)

Data from the Welsh Study of Mothers and Babies and the Brecon Cohort have been linked to the Wales Electronic Children’s Cohort (WECC). These linked data have enabled:

- Successful grant funding from Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation to study pregnancy outcomes among women with Type 1 diabetes.
- A successful MRC fellowship on education and diabetes.
- An analyses of renal health outcomes during childhood associated with pelvicalyceal dilatation to be carried out.
Securing funding to do more research and produce top quality research findings is central to what the NCPHWR does.

However, this alone doesn’t improve the health and wellbeing of Wales’ people. The research produced then has to be used by other people, for example to improve public services, make medicines safer or create more effective government policies.

The NCPHWR therefore has a Knowledge Transfer work programme, designed to help turn our research into benefits outside the world of academia.

This work is co-ordinated by our Knowledge Exchange Action Group, made up of academics, professionals from public services and the third sector, members of the public and knowledge transfer practitioners.

What should we do?

An early priority was to do some research to find out how policymakers, public services and charities use research to inform their decisions, and what encourages or stops them from doing so. Key findings were:

- Face-to-face contact is one of the best methods of transferring research from academia to policymakers and others. By contrast, writing in academic papers is one of the least effective.

- Public service and government officials need research evidence on the topics they are working on at that moment in time, not necessarily the research most recently published by academics. Researchers also need to be more ‘visible’ to policymakers. An ideal way to do both is to get policymakers involved in plans for new research at an early stage, and keep them involved during the research itself.

The NCPHWR’s knowledge transfer activities have been designed to respond to these findings, making the most of the good practice identified, and tackle some of the barriers uncovered.

The NCPHWR Knowledge Exchange Grant Scheme

We have created a grant scheme to help our researchers and other stakeholders get their research either those who use it, or to collaborate with others to create more policy-relevant research. Two grants were awarded in 2016/17, the first to help spread the Safe-Tea campaign to policymakers (see page 11), and the second to help collect data from different parts of Europe on child sexual and physical violence. The scheme is now open for a second round of applications for 2017/18.
The Safe-Tea Campaign

Hot drink scalds in young children are alarmingly common, but there is a lack of research into how best to prevent them. The ‘Safe-Tea’ campaign feasibility study, conducted in Cardiff with the NCPHWR’s Professor Alison Kemp and Flying Start practitioners, is creating an effective intervention to increase prevention behaviours and first aid knowledge amongst parents of those children most at risk of hot drink injuries.

The NCPHWR is helping take the results of the pilot project forward at a larger scale, which will not only improve the research's impact, but also open up opportunities for a larger research funding bid to be developed to create and evaluate a larger-scale intervention.

The NCPHWR funded a Knowledge Exchange workshop in February 2017 in Bristol with healthcare professionals and researchers to explore how the Welsh pilot study could be developed to encompass English regions. It also spread the findings of the original pilot study amongst professionals based in England.

Delegates listening to presentations at the Knowledge Exchange workshop in Bristol

Policymaker Masterclasses and ‘Matchmaking’

Two NCPHWR Knowledge Transfer Masterclasses were held this year, specifically aimed at staff from public services, government and the third sector. The initial masterclass was held in February 2017 in Cardiff, with a second held in Conwy, North Wales in June aimed at social care professionals.

These masterclasses, delivered by the Alliance for Useful Evidence, helped these professionals learn more about how to use (and where they can find) research to use as evidence for making decisions and improving the public services or policies they create. They also gave policymakers, practitioners and commissioners information about the research the NCPHWR can provide them.

These and other NCPHWR events (such as the our Annual Conference 2017) also collected valuable information about the research questions that individual policymakers, commissioners and others need answers to. These have been disseminated by the NCPHWR’s Knowledge Transfer Officer to various researchers throughout the NCPHWR and to other research centres and units funded by Health and Care Research Wales. The intention is to link professionals in Wales who need answers with researchers who can provide them. This should not only create more research projects in future, but will ensure that their research teams include both researchers and the people who will use the research findings.
In its second year, the NCPHWR has sought to continue its focus on collaboration, bringing together academics, clinicians and representatives from industry to encourage the application of bids for exciting new research projects. We continue to see lots of new projects being developed, along with significant research funding being brought into Wales. This year has seen the NCPHWR build on its success from its first year, once again exceeding all targets, including publications to high-impact journals. We are also seeing the impact of initial projects developed by NCPHWR researchers (see page 19 for more information).

During this second year (1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017), NCPHWR staff and researchers have:

**Research**

100 primary schools and 115 secondary schools contributing to health & education network.

Teacher "the school report has meant we have introduced the Daily Mile when we saw our child have less active travel than other schools".

**Investment**

£3 million funding from outside Wales invested in research of Population Health Research

e.g. The Electronic Longitudinal Alcohol Study in Communities (ELASTiC) study (£807,418)

UK Multiple Sclerosis Register (£309,267).

**Training and teaching**

12 PhD studentships

including international joint studentships with Genoble University and collaborations with Munich.

**Bringing people together**

7 events organised to bring researchers, service providers and public together.

Participated in British Science Festival, Techniquest events and 50+ forum.
Engaging with Social Care

The NCPHWR’s Dr Lindsay Eckley and Professor Jane Noyes have worked to:

- Establish the research capacity and capability of social care practitioners in Wales. They undertook two systematic reviews to identify and prioritise social care needs and research gaps in two key groups (children and older people with kidney disease in association with the Wales Kidney Research Unit WKRU). These found a lack of studies undertaken by social care professionals, either in Wales or beyond.

- Make meaningful links with social care practitioners in health and social services and third sector organisations.

- Enable a number of new social care-related research projects to be funded, including a systematic review of respite care for children and young people with life limiting conditions, and a study assessing the effectiveness of a one-day health event for older adults (in partnership with Age Cymru).

A new PHIRN programme of integrated health improvement and social care research is underway, working across both the Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE) and the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health (DECIPHer) Centre.

This programme has helped the development of new research capacity in social care and health improvement. Research studies have covered, epidemiological/qualitative research to map health and social care problems; methodological innovation (data linkage); and intervention and service evaluation.

Engagement

Lead for Industry Engagement and cross-cutting theme “Promotion and Maintenance of Health through an Extended Working Life”: Professor Ernest Choy (Cardiff University)

Social Care Lead: Professor Jane Noyes (Bangor University)

Lead for Acute Paediatrics and Industry Link for Early Years Research: Professor John Gregory (Cardiff University)

Work Programme Lead: Professor Ronan Lyons (Swansea University)

This Work Package focuses on developing the infrastructure to enable collaborative working, both within the NCPHWR and between the NCPHWR and other organisations.

This includes both co-ordinating and ensuring engagement with industry and involvement with the public, as well as integration between health and social care.

The Work Package is also responsible for ensuring the NCPHWR operates effectively internally.
NCPHWR researchers are currently working with industry partners on a number of research projects. For example:

- Funding was obtained from BioCancer Treatment International ltd. to explore the effect of a particular therapy (pegylated arginase) in collagen-induced arthritis.
- Work is progressing on a study sponsored by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer to investigate cardiovascular risk in patients with psoriatic and rheumatoid arthritis.

The NCPHWR’s Professor John Gregory is playing a central role in efforts to establish a Children’s Clinical Research Facility for Wales. This Children’s Clinical Research Facility is the first of its kind in Wales, and opens the way for industry-funded clinical trials of new medicines.

Considerable progress has been made, including:

- The appointment of an Operations Manager (Ms Rhian Thomas-Turner).
- A dedicated space for clinical studies has been identified and equipped and the first paediatric patients have now utilised the Paediatric Clinical Research Facility.
- A number of researcher-led and industry-sponsored studies are being commissioned and the anticipated number of paediatric patients expected through the Facility will increase significantly in the coming weeks and months.

The NCPHWR also held an Evidence Masterclass in 2016 aimed at social care practitioners and policymakers. Delivered by the Alliance for Useful Evidence, the masterclass proved very popular with the social care community, and has resulted in new links between social care practitioners and NCPHWR researchers.
Public involvement and engagement is a routine component of NCPHWR activities; for example by involving members of the public in:

- Developing new research ideas and funding bids.
- Engagement during the lifetime of NCPHWR-supported projects (such as providing advice on disseminating research findings).
- The development of new cohorts, such as HealthWise Wales led by the NCPHWR’s Professor Shantini Paranjothy.

We use a number of groups to ensure that the voice of the public informs our research. For example:

- Children in Wales is a formal partner in NCPHWR and acts as a conduit to engaging with the many organisations dealing with children across Wales.
- Bids and projects supported by PHIRN can access support from ALPHA, a young people’s advisory group funded by DECIPHer.
- The Consumer Panel for Data Linkage can be consulted on research projects involving linked electronic data.
- The Wales Arthritis Research Network (WARN) has established its own Service User Advisory Group to obtain public and patient input into its research.
- Public representatives are also sought from other sources, such as Health and Care Research Wales’ Involving People Network. For example, a bid has been developed in collaboration with the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society and a patient charity in order to make sure that patient’s voices inform the research.

Engaging at events

The NCPHWR has exhibited at a number of different events over the past year, to help raise awareness about the Centre and the research it enables and carries out.

The NCPHWR has presented and/or exhibited at a range of different events during the past twelve months, including the British Science Festival, Involving People’s 2017 annual meeting, and a public panel at the International Population Data Linkage Network conference 2016. We also took part in public-focused events with Techniquest and the Carmarthenshire 50+ forum.

An interactive NCPHWR information exhibit was designed (based on a giant version of the “Connect Four” game), allowing members of the public to learn about the research carried out and enabled by the NCPHWR by interacting with the game.
Spreading the word about the NCPHWR...

School pupils from across Wales have participated in SHRN seminars and provided feedback on SHRN related studies. They have identified strategic priorities for future research including wellbeing and sleep.

SHRN related research data has also been disseminated in over 155 secondary schools and been used by school pupils in action groups to improve school health. In this way, the public have become the main users of our research.

NCPHWR’s Annual Conference

Members of the public took part in the NCPHWR’s 2017 Annual Conference, focused on research to improve the health of children and young people.

The event included a very popular session by the Caerphilly Youth Forum, giving the researchers, policymakers and others present a real glimpse into young people’s priorities.

The NCPHWR’s Kerina Jones, Lynsey Cross and Cate Batchelder are conducting a research study asking members of the Welsh public their opinions about data linkage research.

The results will help the NCPHWR understand what areas of research are most valued by the public. The findings should also highlight any areas where the public have concerns or feel more research is needed on.

This can then feed into the NCPHWR’s future communications work, as well as informing future research plans.

The results will also be passed to colleagues in the SAIL Databank, to help inform SAIL’s future communications and information governance activities.

Stills from a video taken at the NCPHWR Annual Conference. Available via: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQW9HjOTp90
Engaging with the NHS

Our ability to evaluate complex services and their effects on patients’ health across all regions of Wales makes our work particularly useful to the NHS. Many of the funding bids and research projects we support include NHS clinicians, managers and informatics staff. A significant proportion of our research aims to find answers that the NHS can use, either to improve services, or better understand ill-health affects how patients use hospital and community health services.

The Prudent Healthcare Intelligence Hub uses data linkage expertise and resources from the NCPHWR to help the NHS make better use of the information it collects.

The Hub is now supporting 29 NHS-led projects. Examples include:

- An evaluation of the 2015 Lung Cancer Initiative Campaign (with Public Health Wales NHS Trust and the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit).

- A series of pilot projects using pathology data on liver disease and Stroke Prevention (with ABMU Health Board).

- Using data on variation in hospital stays to measure the effectiveness of the management of conditions in Primary Care (with Cwm Taf University Health Board).

A Regional Collaboration for Health (ARCH) is a collaboration between ABMU, Hywel Dda University Health Boards, local authorities and Swansea University, focused on transforming healthcare and wellbeing of the people of South West Wales.

ARCH commissioned the NCPHWR to analyse the health and wellbeing of this population and carry out a literature review around the measurement of wellbeing.

NCPHWR analyses formed a substantial component of ARCH’s “case for change” document submitted to Welsh Government.

### Shaping NHS services

NCPHWR researchers from Cardiff University completed an evaluation of the Models for Access to Maternal Stop Smoking Services for Public Health Wales NHS Trust.

The results showed that the Maternity Support Worker model was the most effective. They provide valuable evidence to NHS organisations delivering these smoking cessation services, or looking to develop such a service in future.
The NCPHWR collaborates on different research projects with the majority of the other Research Centres and Units that the Welsh Government funds via Health and Care Research Wales, as well as other elements of Wales’ research infrastructure.

Some examples of these collaborative research projects include:

- The NCPHWR’s “Bridging Gaps between Social Care and Research Event” in 2017 was arranged in partnership with the Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research (CADR) and the Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE).

- The NCPHWR is helping to make HealthWise Wales a success; for example by developing a Child Dental Health questionnaire to enable Healthwise Wales to collect data for future dental health-related research.

- The NCPHWR’s Ronan Lyons, Jane Noyes and Lindsay Eckley are working with the Wales Air Ambulance on a joint PRIME Centre Wales project data from the SAIL Databank.

- The NCPHWR now houses and is helping to train a data analyst working for the Diabetes Research Unit.

- PHIRN is a strategic partnership between the NCPHWR, Centre for Trials Research, CASCADE and the Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer).

- Joint work is also underway between the NCPHWR and the Wales Kidney Research Unit, South East Wales Trials Unit (SEWTU) and the National Centre for Mental Health.

The NCPHWR and the SAIL Databank work extremely closely, as the data in SAIL is used for all the NCPHWR’s health informatics-related bids and awards.

This partnership working is crucial to the success of both. NCPHWR researchers use, link and analyse data from the SAIL Databank, and turn this raw data into research findings to benefit Wales’ population. Some of this research in turn helps improve SAIL, making it a more effective and accessible resource.

For example, NCPHWR research have helped develop the Tagged Electronic Cohort, which makes it easier for researchers who are not data analysts to analyse and manipulate data from SAIL.

This development will allow NCPHWR researchers to do more research over the coming year in areas like cardiovascular health, arthritis and autism, as it’s now easier and quicker for non-specialist data analysts to use SAIL data.
The wide-ranging nature of our research means that many different groups can benefit from our research findings. These include:

- NHS staff and patients, as well as Social care staff, service users and other carers;
- Policymakers within national and local government;
- Children, schools and educators;
- Other groups of people in the wider population (e.g. people trying to quit smoking).

This page showcases examples of the impact our research is having on some of them.

### Impact on Government Policy

SHRN was commissioned by the Cabinet Secretary for Education to provide research support for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2105. Its research also informed the implementation of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

PHIRN’s research is also informing Welsh Government policy, such as the ‘Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales’ strategy.

Also, intelligence and data we gathered on social care research priorities fed into the development of the Wales Social Care Research Strategy 2017-2022.

### Impact on Children & Schools

SHRN provides feedback reports to the schools it works with, giving these schools information about the health and wellbeing of their pupils.

Schools have utilised the reports in a variety of ways. For example, Personal and Social Education coordinators have used them for curriculum planning, student councils have used them for health action prioritisation and planning, and school senior managers have used them as evidence in school inspections.

The primary school research network HAPPEN also produces reports for both schools and local government. These reports have been used by schools to bring about changes that promote health in the school and have been used by the local council to change how services are delivered.

The ACTIVE project is in partnership with the local council and has led to changes in how services are delivered based on recommendations from teenagers.

### Impact on NHS services

The Burns and Scalds Assessment Template (see page 8) has been established in 12 Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units in Wales and England.

A number of projects evaluating NHS services are underway (for example, the Living Well Living Longer cardiovascular risk assessment programme in South East Wales). These evaluations will inform decisions made by the NHS around continuing, extending or modifying these services.
During our first year (2015/16), we at the NCPHWR focused on putting the staffing and other infrastructure in place to ensure the Centre is a long-term success. We also concentrated on bringing together our researchers, clinicians and others to form collaborations and develop new funding bids.

This work of creating new bids has continued during our second year (2016/17), bringing in over £15 million in external grant funding since the NCPHWR’s launch. Almost 80% (£12m) of this research funding has come from outside Wales, showing that our researchers are successfully competing at both a UK and international level.

Our focus has also expanded during the past year to include much more public engagement and knowledge transfer. Our masterclasses and other events, as well as our website and social media activity, have not only been spreading the word about our research, but also finding policymakers and decision makers from across government, local authorities, the NHS and the third sector who need research to improve what they do. Putting these individuals in contact with our researchers will not only increase the number of new funding bids and research projects developed, but will ensure that our research has a positive impact on public services and policy in Wales.

Priorities during our coming third year include:

- Generating research finding from projects started during years one and two, and work with public services, policymakers and others to ensure they are turned into improvements in services and policy.

- Develop funding bids to continue and develop large Welsh-led population health research centres, including the NCPHWR, DECIPHer and Farr Institute CIPHER.

- Continue to expand our public engagement and knowledge transfer work, and form new collaborations to secure funding for many more new research projects.