# Evaluation of the Women’s Pathfinder Whole System Approach and 18-25 Early Intervention Service – South Wales & Gwent

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The placement will focus on the evaluation of the Women’s Pathfinder Whole System Approach (WSA) and 18-25 Early Intervention Service in South Wales & Gwent. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to research and develop a varied range of research outputs, and support the Welsh Government in their research process. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to enhance their knowledge of research outside academia.

# The Organisation

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales with responsibility for the economy, education, health and the Welsh NHS, business, public services and the environment of Wales.

Specifically, the internship will be based within Knowledge and Analytic services (KAS). KAS provides the collection, analysis and presentation of research and data for policymakers and the general public in keeping with professional standards. They offer independent evidence to understand, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate government policies. KAS also supports policy colleagues with policy development, implementation and delivery.

# The Internship

The intern will be part of the team working on Crime & Justice. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. The internship will require working closely with policy officials and researchers, and will provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to enhance policy knowledge.

The successful candidate will benefit from development opportunities offered centrally by the Welsh Government, potentially including mentoring, shadowing, peer support and training.

Interns will benefit from the experience of working closely with the Welsh Government:

* Gaining a better understanding of the world outside of academia and increasing employability, using their knowledge and skills to contribute to the work of the Welsh Government.
* The intern’s colleagues at the Welsh Government can offer an insight into the intern’s PhD project that can contribute to the success of their thesis’, as well as networking opportunities within the policy arena linked to their research area
* Transferable skills and knowledge
* Time management skills
* Report writing skills

# The Project

The Commissioning Partnership established between South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, HMPPS in Wales and the Welsh Government has committed significant investment over two years (at least; from 1st October 2019) to the delivery of the Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service.

The intention of this service is to target support more effectively, avoiding gaps or duplication in service provision, and supporting women and young adults to access support and interventions successfully so that they can turn their lives around. This service supports its users to live crime free lives, improve well-being and in the long term reduce re-offending and make communities safer. Support is offered from the earliest possible stage, recognising the far-reaching, long-term impact resulting from the criminalisation of women and young adults.

Future4, a consortium made up of G4S, Safer Wales, Include and Llamau have been commissioned to deliver this service which has ultimately resulted in a joined-up partnership between public, private and third sector, all working towards the aim of reducing offending and reoffending in Wales by enabling women and young adults to have opportunities to live positive, independent, and healthy lives.

This placement focuses on the evaluation of the Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service. It is intended that any evaluation will provide objective evidence for the effectiveness of the WSA, which will be valuable to both commissioners and service providers as well as wider stakeholders. It will provide information about ‘what works, with who, when, why and how’ in the context of the Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service. This will inform onward delivery, including potential improvements to the current approach. It is anticipated that the evaluation will inform future funding decisions as well as the broader direction of female offending and youth justice/Y2A policy in Wales, for example, in relation to the implementation of the female offending & youth justice blueprints.

The evaluation will provide a clear understanding of the effectiveness of the Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service in achieving its intended outcomes at an individual service user level, i.e. Better emotional and physical health and well-being; Strengthen positive relationships; Increased safety; Enhanced life skills.

The evaluation will also consider the wider-system benefits that the service brings to partners and communities. It will provide an understanding of the effectiveness of the Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service in achieving its intended wider benefits/outcomes for children, victims, the wider community and public services:

- Reduced incidence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs);

- Improved trauma informed responses to ACEs/ameliorating the impact of ACEs where they have occurred;

- Improved community cohesion and confidence;

- Reduced incidences of crime through reduced offending/ reoffending (recognising that long-term recidivism measurement will not be possible within the required timeframes);

- Reduced demand on services including policing, courts, health.

The evaluation should seek to capture any unintended outcomes of the WSA and 18-25 service (both positive and negative) at both a service user and wider level. The evaluation should seek to capture outcomes consistent with the principles underpinning the female offending & youth offending blueprints, i.e. whether the service takes an individualised, holistic, trauma-informed and gender-responsive approach to engaging service users. The evaluation should therefore consider the overall impact of the Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service, as well as the specific impact on the female and 18-25 cohorts.

It should also consider the impact of the Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service on sub-cohorts of service users, such as those identified as priorities under the IOM Cymru Board’s ‘framework to support positive change for those at risk of offending in Wales’, including those at risk of perpetrating Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), BAME service users, etc. The evaluation should consider how other offending cohorts might benefit from the WSA, such as adult males or under 18s.

Consideration should be given to ensuring how stakeholders from those areas of Wales not implementing the WSA model (i.e. North Wales and Dyfed-Powys) can both inform and benefit from the evaluation. The evaluation should explicitly seek to identify the added value of a whole systems approach to working with females at risk of offending as well as the 18-25 cohort.

It is likely that a second PhD internship will be offered to run consecutively with the first. The first student should therefore see to make recommendations for ongoing research that can be pursued by the second placement student, ensuring continuity.

The approach should be flexible to allow for any restrictions/changes associated with the Covid-19 pandemic to be accommodated.

Anticipated project outcomes:

The student should provide a draft and final evaluation report for the Commissioning Board, including:

* An Executive Summary suitable for sharing with stakeholders
* A Summary of Findings suitable for sharing with Women’s Pathfinder WSA and 18-25 Early Intervention Service users

The student may also be asked to present and discuss findings and recommendations at relevant Board meetings.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for three months, with the option of extension, during which time the students PhD project will be paused by their home institution. The student will be paid the equivalent of their stipend during their internship. Over and above leave policies, time for existing PhD commitments can be arranged on discussion with line managers. E.g. research groups meetings and conference presentations. Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will be working from home during their internship. This is based on our current understanding of the situation and what is possible in terms of research work. This may change as the Covid-19 situation develops. Should the Covid-19 situation develop and allow for a return for a phased return to offices this will be discussed with successful applicants.

The internship will last for a period of three months full-time or the part-time equivalent. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this internship is available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame (no fewer than three days a working week), this would be negotiated between the WG and the successful applicant. If you would like to be considered on a part-time basis, please specify your preferred working hours on the application form.

Student specification

## The student must have:

* Ability to analyse qualitative & quantitative data
* Experience in conducting applied psychological and/or criminological research, including direct contact with vulnerable service users and their support staff.
* Experience in handling/manipulating data, in Stata or SPSS.
* The ability to produce cross-tabulations, well designed charts and to produce concise, well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format.

# Start date of internship

January 2021 (exact date to be negotiated). There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

# Funding and costs

Reasonable travel and accommodation costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. Requests should be consistent with Wales DTP guidelines. Applications from students requiring additional funding for travel and accommodation will not be treated less favourably. For any queries on this please contact Carole Baker at the Wales DTP on: [enquiries@walesdtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@walesdtp.ac.uk)

# Security

The Welsh Government’s vetting procedures (which apply to temporary as well as permanent staff) involve the completion of a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) application form and a Security Questionnaire for the purpose of security vetting.

This process requires the applicant to produce in person three original forms of identification documents, one of which should be photographic (passport, new driving license), one document should showing their current address, plus one of: a utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

# Queries

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed to Dr Cerys Miles: Cerys.Miles003@gov.wales