

**Research on the implementation and early impacts of the CAMHS In-Reach to Schools programme**

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The focus of the project is to explore the implementation and early impacts of the Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) In-Reach service. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders, in particular, staff in Public Health Wales (PHW). 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 internship will be located within the Education Directorate, working closely with social researchers and stakeholders from PHW. 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

**Background:** The mental health and well-being of children and young people in Wales is a priority. Prior to the pandemic, there was [evidence](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2017/2017) indicating worsening mental health and wellbeing among UK children and young people. The pandemic and its associated mitigation measures have likely further exacerbated poor mental health and wellbeing problems in children and young people. [NHS data](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2021-follow-up-to-the-2017-survey) indicates that one in six (17 per cent) 6–16-year-olds in England have a probable mental health disorder, up from one in nine (12 per cent) in 2017, with around two in five (39 per cent) reporting worsening mental health over this period. A [similar decline](https://www.shrn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SHRN-MHW-Briefing-Report-2022-FINAL-01.08.22-en.pdf) in young people’s mental health and wellbeing has been observed in Wales.

The CAMHS In-Reach to Schools programme, run by PHW on behalf of the Welsh Government, aims to build capacity (including skills, knowledge and confidence) in schools to support pupils’ mental health and well-being (e.g., through training) and improve schools’ access to specialist liaison, consultancy and advice when needed (e.g., by providing access to CAMHS In-Reach practitioners). These medium-term outcomes are intended to contribute to long term outcomes, such as enabling schools to meet the educational needs of their pupils and reducing school staffs’ stress.

This CAMHS In-Reach to Schools programme was first piloted in three areas in Wales and an [evaluation](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-07/evaluation-of-the-camhs-in-reach-to-schools-pilot-programme-impact-of-covid-19.pdf) commissioned by the Welsh Government found that the pilot was working well, but further work was required to develop and refine training and support to promote staff mental health and wellbeing. The programme has since been rolled out to all areas.

**The internship:** The intern will work with officials and stakeholders from PHW to explore the implementation and early impacts of the CAMHS In-Reach programme. There is ongoing work by PHW to work with CAMHS In-Reach to School coordinators to examine the service that is being delivered, as well as how and what their service looks like. The research will be conducted as part of this internship will complement this work and is planned to include:

1. Analysis of previously collected monitoring data provided by CAMHS In-Reach to School coordinators to understand the impact of the programme in line with policy officials’ evidence needs. The data collected is a mix of quantitative and qualitative information.
2. Identification of evidence gaps in collected data and collaboration with stakeholders to explore monitoring data that could be routinely collected to examine the impact of the CAMHS In-Reach to School programme. The intern could support the development of a long-term framework to monitor the impact of the programme.
3. Case studies at a small number of settings which have been identified as potential exemplars.

However, please note that this list could be subject to change.

Anticipated project outcomes:

* A report detailing their findings to inform policy and practice for the CAMHS In-Reach to School programme.
* Contribute to an evaluation framework outlining the core monitoring and outcome data of the CAMHS In-Reach to School programme.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for 3 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 work in a hybrid way between home and a Welsh Government office during their internship. This may change depending on Welsh Government policy. Any changes to working arrangements will be discussed with successful applicants.

The internship will last for a period of 3 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 be:

* Proficient in conducting descriptive statistical analysis to interpret and draw meaningful conclusions from quantitative evidence, as well as identify key evidence gaps.
* Capacity to analyse qualitative data to identify themes.
* An effective communicator able to collaborate with officials and a range of stakeholders, including colleagues in PHW and CAMHS In-Reach coordinators.
* Able to conduct interviews with key stakeholders.
* Able to produce concise, well written documents, presenting complex material in an accessible format.

# Start date of internship

June 2024 (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 WGSSS 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 WGSSS on: 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 Daniel.Burley002@Gov.Wales.