

# Allied Health Professions Framework for Wales

Looking Forward Together



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Executive Summary

**This framework sets out the strategic response to A Healthier Wales (2018) from the Allied Health Professions. It describes the challenges that need to be addressed, the value that Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) offer and the actions needed to help maximise their value and impact. The purpose of this Allied Health Professions framework is to ensure that:**

- **Citizens achieve outcomes that matter to them and experience the highest quality of care and treatment at all times.**
- **Allied Health Professionals collectively and individually embed value based health and care. They apply their skills, experience and professional values to lead and deliver evidence-based care to improve the lives of citizens in Wales.**

The Allied Health Professions are 13 individual professions allied by their belief in the importance of enabling citizens to live the lives they want to live. Individually and collectively AHPs work to empower people of all ages, from birth through to the end of life, to manage their own wellbeing and prevent or reduce the impact of psychological and physical ill health and disability.

They deliver strong, practical, solution-focused and life-affirming outcomes through a unique range of bio/psycho/social interventions that are particularly valuable in responding effectively to the complex, multi-dimensional needs of the population. These can:

- prevent unnecessary hospital admissions
- reduce length of stay
- facilitate safe sustainable discharge
- enable people to reduce reliance on long term care services
- allow people to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible

Allied Health Professions have not always been visible and equal partners in the health and social care workforce. This has restricted their ability to improve the health outcomes for citizens and to reduce the impact that health and social inequalities have on wellbeing. In order to maximise their value, the Allied Health Professions must be utilised more effectively to inspire and enable people to lead healthier lives, be more easily and directly accessible, and work at the top of their ability with visible and transformational leadership. AHPs have collaboratively developed and agreed six core principles to describe this transformation:



AHPs' person-directed, enabling and recovery-focused interventions will need to be more widely available in public health, primary and community care. Direct access, self-referral and First Contact Practitioner models require development to meet demand. Currently, too few AHP services are available outside of the traditional working week. There is insufficient provision of rehabilitation, reablement and recovery interventions, intermediate care and community rehabilitation to maximise people's ability to live as well as possible for as long as possible.

This AHP framework mirrors *A Healthier Wales (2018)* and uses the internationally recognised Quadruple Aim as an organising concept to describe the changes required based on these principles. This will result in AHPs working in partnership with citizens to achieve longer, healthier and happier lives through:

- 1. Improving population health outcomes
- 2. Enhancing the quality of and access to AHPs

### 3. Securing higher value from AHPs through transformation

### 4. Inspiring a vibrant AHP workforce

These are described in a diagram at Figure 1 (below). The framework action plan, which identifies outcomes and actions required to drive service transformation, can be found in the appendix of the Allied Health Professions framework. To view the full framework, please visit [gov.wales/allied-health-professions-ahp-framework](http://gov.wales/allied-health-professions-ahp-framework).

Fig 1 | The AHP Framework for Wales: the Quadruple Aim

