

Research, Innovation and Improvement Coordination (RIIC) Hub Work Programme 2020-21



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BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

As part of the Welsh Government Transformation Programme Fund to improve quality and value, a **nationally co-ordinated network of hubs** was created to bring together research, innovation and improvement activity within each Regional Partnership Board (RPB) footprint.

The need to better co-ordinate research, innovation and improvement (RII) was a key action outlined with **A Healthier Wales** and these hubs will identify and steer opportunities for regional research, innovation and improvement activity and collaborative partnerships. This will accelerate the shift toward **higher quality and better value services**, including new models of seamless health and social care.

Each RIIC Hub will deliver:

- Better co-ordination and alignment of a cluttered landscape
- Evidence about integration, new way of working and quality led approaches to RII.
- Strengthened RII infrastructure to promote better quality and higher value RII.

Each Hub will do this through:

- Providing a comprehensive and current overview of all RII activity across the RPB area
- Ensuring that leaders, partners and stakeholders are informed and engaged
- Working with other regional hubs as a national network, with an emphasis on driving the adoption and spread of activity

The Hubs will to **connect to and complement existing networks and activity** and should have a clear understanding of how they will support and strengthen established networks and serve as a catalyst to increase the impact of RII activity through better co-ordination and prioritisation.

Particular importance will be given to improving outcomes for service users by **identifying and promoting high-value RII activity**, and work with other regional hubs as a national network, with an emphasis on importing and exporting good practice, sharing learning and experience, driving the adoption and spread of activity which will benefit service providers, users, and the public

Ambition for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg RI&IC hub

Anchored within the Partnership Board and **engaging equally with its partner organisations** the hub will be positioned in the centre to act as a focal point for RII knowledge generation and capture.

It will help to:

- **IDENTIFY** examples of innovation and good practice from across the region.
- **PRIORITISE** and coordinate RII activity base on RPB priorities.
- **ENGAGE** with and support key leaders and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovative approaches.

Key Achievements to date

Delivered a number of commitments from the previous 2019-20 work plan across a number of work streams. Acted as a point of contact for new opportunities that support priority themes and identified a number of opportunities for CTMRPB to lead for Wales.

- With Swansea University produced the first detailed mapping of RII activity across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
- Supported the development of a standalone RPB website and engagement tool.
- With Cardiff Met and Swansea Universities as part of the Circular Economies Innovation programme, set up a Housing Innovation Cohort, the first in Wales.
- Education engagement with Merthyr Tydfil BC. Primary school student led evaluation of potential education opportunities to support Key stage 2 & 3 curriculum.

Response to Covid 19 Pandemic

As the RIIC hub team was established in Spring 2020 it was immediately require to pivot into supporting different work streams across the RPB.


- Teaching Staff Covid Antibody Testing; The RIIC hub team in 11 days set up a multiagency Covid Antibody Testing team that tested over 5000 teaching staff in over the summer of 2020.
- Brought 3rd sector partners into Ysbty Seren Field Hospital to support Covid Rehabilitation.
- Supported the 'Protect' TTP work stream providing project management and communication support.
- Supported Value Base Healthcare colleagues in the development and deployment of the CERi Chatbot to provide Covid Advice
- Worked with USW to develop a new point of care test for Covid based on LAMP methodology securing over £150 in WG funding.
- With Manchester University, acting as the Welsh partner on the UK wide 'Voices of Covid' research project.

Extension of the RIIC hub into year 3


- Originally the RII hub funding matched the Transformation funding timescale and was due to end in March 2021, however this has now been similarly extended until March 2022
- The refreshed work programme sets out a continuation of the work to date and builds on the new areas of priority particularly around wellbeing and mental health.
- The RIIC hub team have provided a dynamic and adaptive resource to support a number of activities outside of its current work programme, primarily driven by Covid but the future work plan acknowledges that this capacity exists
- The sustainability of the RIIC hub team is inherently measured in the outcomes of the work it delivers and evidences, and the future function and ongoing support of the RIIC hub will be driven through this.

Work package Theme Aims	WG Government Year 3 Priority Areas	Hub Activity	Outcome & Timescale
1. RII OVERVIEW <i>Provide a comprehensive and current overview of all research, innovation and improvement activity across the RPB area</i>	1. An updated current overview of R,I&I activity	1.1 Develop a robust process to gather and share examples of RI&I activity	Initial report produced Jan 2021
		1.2 Build on existing mapping capacity to address gaps in initial work specifically around RII in commercial sector e.g local health tech firms	Sep 2021
	2. Use analysis of the RI&I activity to align regional and national priorities	1.3 Connect and link to evaluating experts to develop capacity so that activities with the greatest potential impact and/or scalability can be championed and promoted.	Working with HEI partners. March 2021
	3. Implementation of lessons learnt over the past 12 – 18 months	1.4 Benchmarking projects/ innovations/ improvement across the RPB signposting access to expertise to robustly evidence impact and outcomes.	As above.
2. ENGAGEMENT <i>Ensure that leaders, partners and stakeholders are informed of, and engaged in, all RI&I activity.</i>	4. Working together as a national RIIC Hub network	2.1 Publicise and promote examples of current good RII activity both internally and externally engages other national organisations.	RPB Website live Spring 2021
		2.2 Raising the profile of high impact initiatives and expertise through networking events across the RPB and Wales.	Case Studies and reports of activity Spring 2021
		2.3 Events, publications, and an annual report presented to the Regional Partnership Board and Health Board;	Annual Report 20/21 - March 2021 Annual Report 21/22 - March 2022
		2.4 Work with other RIIC hubs as a national network, sharing knowledge, driving spread, benefitting providers and users of services	Ongoing.
3. RPB PRIORITIES AND GROUPS <i>Ensure that key RPB priorities are supported</i>	5. Demonstrating how the Hubs are adding value that evidences sustainability.	3.1 Engage with housing expertise within Local Authority Partners and Housing associations to explore 1) housing-related RI&I activity can impact on health & wellbeing and 2) Learning Disabilities service provision	Ongoing

		3.3 Engage with colleagues across the RPB to prioritise and develop key outcomes around wellbeing and mental health alongside key RPB priorities.	
4. REACTIVE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT AD HOC WORK		4.1 Provide a dynamic capacity to support innovative opportunities as they arise.	As required.


Signature:	
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Date:	12 th March 2021

Executive Sign Off:

Signature:	
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Title:	Exec Director of Public Health, Lead for Research and Innovation
Organisation:	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Date:	22.03.21

RPB Chair Endorsed:

Signature:	
Name:	Rachel Rowlands
Title:	Chair of RPB
Organisation:	Age Connect Morgannwg
Date:	20 th March 2021