

Housing and health





GIG
CYMRU
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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Building bridges between housing
and health

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PART 1 : Introduction

My interest in this & journey so far...

Public health and housing is key

Bevan Exemplar : Brief overview

The challenge.....

Context of a cost of living rise

Impact on the NHS and partners (financial)

Cold weather 'winter' pressures

What can we do.....

Good practice guide developed

Community of Practice

Promotes reflective practice

Could have beneficial impact

Good practice guide



Key timescales.....

Bevan Exemplar status last year

Community of Practice convened

Good practice developed...and tested %

Product launch September – next steps?

Key timescales : Next steps

Roll out of good practice guide

Collation of good practice compendium

Register of past, current, future research

Very early discussions on a showcase event

PART 2

Setting the scene

There is a compelling evidence-base that housing influences health in many ways. For example, living in a cold, damp home is linked to increased risks of respiratory illnesses.

Furthermore, for patients living in such environments, colder temperatures in the winter can lead to hospital admission. So clearly housing is a major factor in the pressures at the 'front door' of the NHS.

Back door pressure

- In addition, housing is also a major factor in the 'back door' pressures of the NHS. Patients in hospital with changes mobility, for example following a disabling stroke, may require housing adaptations in order to return home.
- It is perhaps a misnomer to call this is discharge pressure and perhaps it would be more relevant to call this a delayed transfer of care back to their own home.

Policy gap?

- It is therefore perhaps a surprise that the housing agenda is not systematically part of the health and social care agenda in Wales. Whilst recognising that there is some good practice in Wales, at present such delivery is largely based on locally sensitive initiatives.
- A Bevan exemplar project was therefore set up to develop a systematic framework delivered via a national good practice guide.

Re-cap of the Bevan Exemplar

- The Bevan exemplar project convened an all-Wales multi-agency and multi-disciplinary community of practice. The substantive product was a good practice guide – both in short and long form – which was shared at the ‘Spread and Scale’ academy in September 2022.
- A final report was delivered to the Senedd in January 2023 and now is the time for wider implementation work.

Health, social care and housing triangle

- Two questions will be considered. The first is to discuss the position that health, social care and housing form an equilateral triangle where they have the same importance.
- A disconnect between any of these sectors will inevitably put pressure on the other and the question must be raised as to whether we could have a better integrated and holistic care system.

What is our ambition?

- The second is to highlight a highly ambitious question about the possibility that Wales could lead the world.
- Wales is an optimal sized country where relationships and partnership between the sectors can be developed and it seems highly appropriate that the nation which gave the world the NHS could lead a fresh development. A further question arises – are we brave enough?

What are the 'win/win' implications?

- Retrofit of homes and decarbonisation
- NHS pressure reduction
- Policy development
- Public health
- Inequalities across Wales
- Future generations and the wellbeing of children
- Future vision of truly integrated health, social care and housing with Wales leading the world

Closing remarks

Wealth and health are linked

Opportunity to prepare for winter

Help reduce service pressures

Role of partners and some feedback

Questions

1. What good practice is already there in projects between housing and health?
2. How can we spread and scale these up further for an all-Wales approach to it?
3. What are the barriers and challenges in projects between housing and health?
4. What is our ambition and what is the 'end game'? Can we achieve this? How?