



Social Care Action Plan

Health Technology Wales (HTW) and Social Care Wales have been working in partnership to ensure that HTW's processes are appropriate for social care and to increase awareness and accessibility for the social care community. This was outlined as a priority for 2021-2022 in our [Strategic Plan](#) and is aligned with Welsh Government goals to improve coordination between health and social care as outlined in "[A Healthier Wales](#)".

To date, HTW and Social Care Wales have convened a series of events to explore these issues and better understand how our work could be adapted to respond to the needs of the social care community in Wales. The details of these events are presented in more detail in accompanying reports.

A key next step for Health Technology Wales will be to run a Social Care Open Topic Call to identify topics for appraisal in early 2022. To prepare for this, and in response to the early activities of this partnership, Health Technology Wales has developed the following Action Plan organised around our strategic goals.

Identification

- Refresh the HTW website to ensure that the presentation and language used to describe our work is accessible to a diverse representation of voices from across health and social care.
- Update the HTW topic suggestion form to ensure that social care audiences feel able to engage with the process and have confidence in submitting topics for appraisal.



- Develop communications to increase awareness of HTW within the social care community and to support identification of social care topics

Appraisal

- Adapt HTW's templates and style guide to ensure that general language is appropriate and reflects the complexities of social care services and the needs of people accessing social care.
- Develop a plan to ensure that HTW has a flexible and inclusive approach to a broad range of evidence within its appraisal process, including integrating real world and qualitative evidence into social care appraisals.
- Review whether best practice examples on economic evaluation of social care in HTA are available and develop a plan for economic evaluation of social care within our appraisal programme, including consideration of broadening the perspective and considering a wider range of costs and benefits appraising social care topics.
- Request that the HTW Public and Patient Involvement Standing Group scope methods that can be deployed to ensure perspectives of key social care stakeholders are included within the HTW appraisal process.
- Consider the membership key HTW advisory groups, including the assessment group, appraisal panel and signposting group, to ensure adequate representation of context and voices from across social care.



Adoption

- Prompt discussion with social care stakeholders on the “Adopt or Justify” status of HTW guidance.
- Tailor the communication of HTW guidance for social care to ensure that there is awareness in relevant communities and consider how HTW guidance can be described in a way that is easily accessible and understood by a range of social care stakeholders.
- Explore how adoption of HTW guidance can be encouraged and monitored within social care settings.
- Continue to engage with academic-led initiatives that are working to assess how HTA agencies can promote adoption of their guidance within social care.

Engagement

- Target engagement of innovators within the social care ecosystem, supporting them to build an evidence-based proposition for appraisal.
- Engage in ongoing joint communications with SCW to raise the profile of both HTW and SCW and encourage the referral and adoption of evidence-based technologies within social care settings.
- Co-develop and offer a professional education programme to support capacity building for evidence-based social care and increase understanding of HTA methods targeted for social care stakeholders and professional groups.
- Map and develop links with other HTA agencies and organisations developing recommendations on the delivery of social care across the United Kingdom and internationally.