



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Cwm Taf  
University Health Board



**Ysgoloriaeth Ymchwil PhD KES S Prifysgol De Cymru  
University of South Wales KESS PhD Studentship**

**PDC / USW MAXI 21438**

**Social prescribing in the Welsh Valleys: a quasi-experimental design to compare the effect of social prescribing in community and GP practice settings on well-being**

<p><b>PhD wedi'i gyllido</b> yw hwn, sy'n cynnwys <b>cyflog hael a ffioedd dysgu</b>, gydag amgylchiadau sydd â <b>digon o adnoddau</b> ar gyfer ysgoloriaeth lwyddiannus.</p>	<p>This is a <b>funded PhD</b>, including a generous <b>stipend and tuition fees</b>, with <b>well-resourced</b> circumstances for a successful scholarship.</p>
--	--

Here is an **exciting opportunity** to conduct a quasi-experimental design which could lead to entirely **new approaches** in the future delivery of social prescribing (SP) by comparing the effect of the social prescriber models on patients' wellbeing.

The **selected candidate** will apply their research **skills and ambition** to conduct applied research with the University of South Wales and Cwm Taf University Health Board. This **research project**, will allow the student to develop **transferable knowledge and skills** in this **most exciting and active field of applied health and social science research**.

This **Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarship (KESS) project** will be held in the Faculty Life Sciences and Education at the **University of South Wales**. KESS is a programme funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) awarded by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) in the Welsh Government. The PhD will be associated with Cwm Taf University Health Board. The project will focus on comparing the effect of two SP models on patient wellbeing; and to develop a logic model to express the mechanism(s) behind the effect of Social Prescribing on participants. The outcomes of this research will have the potential to influence social prescribing service delivery in Wales and the UK.

The project is backed by Cwm Taf University Health Board, which was established in October 2009 and provides primary, community, hospital and mental health services to almost 300,000 people living in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. Ideally situated between Wales' capital city, Cardiff to the South and the stunning scenery in the Brecon Beacons National Park to the North, we operate within a vibrant community, rich with history and heritage.

Our philosophy 'Cwm Taf Cares' is at the heart of everything we do. Our commitment to the health, wellbeing and development of our staff is recognised with the highly coveted Platinum Corporate Health Standard.

With almost 8,000 staff, our workforce is the life-blood not only of the University Health Board, but many of the South Wales Valleys' communities that we serve. We take our role as the area's second largest employer very seriously, and this is evident in our wide-ranging partnership working, dedication to our corporate social responsibilities and the importance we place on building relationships with our staff and community.

### Programme of research:

Social Prescribing (SP) is a term which is growing in relevance across the UK and Europe, although there is limited research evidence to judge its effectiveness and who benefits (Bickerdike, 2017). Following a 'what matters' conversation a social prescriber will refer a patient to 'a *community asset, putting them in control, and better able to manage their health and well-being*' (Thomas, 2018). It recognises that a person's health is determined primarily by social, environmental and economic factors. Approximately 20% of people consult their GP with experiences of low mood, loneliness and isolation, welfare, debt, housing and benefits advice (SPN, 2016).

The social prescriber conversation in the Rhondda is conducted by two models, a 'link-worker' (LW) based in GP practices, & a 'community-coordinator' based in a community setting. The LW is based across 7 GP practices on a fortnightly rota basis, due to the availability of private rooms. LW receives referrals from all 14 GP practices, including all health professionals & GP administration staff.

The community-coordinator receives referrals from, social services, health services (such as podiatry), the third sector, local authority and housing organisations. The role is also to provide information to promote local services and activities and meet people at community groups and events. A better understanding of these two models would inform the development of future social prescribing services.

The aim of this study is to compare the effect of two SP models on patient wellbeing; and to develop a logic model to express the mechanism(s) behind the effect of SP on participants. A quasi-experimental design with qualitative method will be used, collecting primary and secondary outcomes over 18 months with 280 patients, in addition to a total of 25-35 semi-structured interviews with patients at 6 month and prescribers and community staff at study end.

<p><b>Ysgoloriaeth ymchwil:</b></p> <p>Bydd yr ysgoloriaeth ymchwil yn cynnwys ffioedd ar gyfer rhaglen PhD llawn-amser am flwyddyn ac yn talu cyflog o oddeutu £14k y flwyddyn. Mae hefyd tua £9k o gostau cymorth ar gael i'r prosiect ar gyfer treuliau, teithio, mân offer, hyfforddiant (gan gynnwys Ysgol Raddedig KESS) a mynychu cynadleddau.</p> <p><b>Mae'r swydd ar gael o 1 Ionawr 2019.</b></p>	<p><b>Studentship:</b></p> <p>The studentship will cover the fees for a full-time PhD programme and pay a stipend of circa £14k p.a. There is also around £9k project support costs available for consumables, travel, minor equipment, training (including the KESS Grad School) and conference attendance.</p> <p><b>The position is available from 1st January 2018.</b></p>
<p><b>Cymhwyster Myfyrywr:</b></p> <p>I fod yn gymwys i gael ysgoloriaeth ymchwil KESS, mae'n rhaid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cael cyfeiriad cartref yn yr ardal Ddwyrain Cymru (manylion isod)* <b>ar adeg cofrestru.</b></li><li>• bod gennych hawl i ymgymryd â gwaith cyflogedig yn yr ardal Ddwyrain Cymru * ar ôl cwblhau'r ysgoloriaeth.</li><li>• bod y Brifysgol yn eich ystyried yn fyfyrwr 'cartref' neu 'UE' at ddibenion ffioedd dysgu yn unol â chanllawiau'r Brifysgol.</li><li>• eich bod yn bodloni meini prawf mynediad Prifysgol De Cymru: gweler isod, <i>cymwysterau a phrofiad a'r broses ymgeisio</i></li></ul> <p><i>*Ddwyrain Cymru ardal yn cwmpasu: Bro Morgannwg / Caerdydd / Casnewydd/ Sir Fynwy/ Powys/ Wrecsam/ Sir Y Fflint</i></p>	<p><b>Eligibility of Student:</b></p> <p>To be eligible to hold a KESS studentship, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have a home address in East Wales area (details below)* <b>at the time of registration.</b></li><li>• have the right to take up paid work in the East Wales area* on completion of the scholarship.</li><li>• be classified by the University as 'home' or 'EU' for tuition fees purposes according to the University's guidelines.</li><li>• satisfy University of South Wales's admissions criteria: see below, <i>qualifications and experience and application process</i></li></ul> <p><i>*East Wales area covers: Vale of Glamorgan / Cardiff/ Newport/ Monmouthshire/ Powys/ Wrexham/ Flintshire</i></p>

<b>Cymwysterau a phrofiad:</b> Bydd gan ymgeiswyr cymwys:	<b>Qualifications and experience:</b> Eligible applicants will:
--	--

- Have a degree (2i or higher) in an appropriate discipline such as nursing/ health/ health and social care management/psychology/ science or social sciences.
- Possess a reasonable understanding of health and social science research methods and have an interest in research with people who access or work in primary care and third sector organisations.
- Be highly self-motivated, with capacity to learn and develop applied research techniques
- Have well-developed and positively collaborative interpersonal skills
- Have an ability to deliver technical reports and communicate findings
- Be willing to travel and work in primary care and community settings, such as GP surgeries and community projects.

<p><b>Y Broses Ymgeisio:</b></p> <p>I lawrlwytho'r pecyn ymgeisio, ewch i: <a href="#">Pecyn Ymgeisio Cyfranogwr</a></p> <p>Am unrhyw ymholiadau ynghylch cymhwysedd, cysylltwch â: Tîm KESS, Gwasanaethau Ymchwil ac Arloesedd, Prifysgol De Cymru: <a href="mailto:kess@decymru.ac.uk">kess@decymru.ac.uk</a> Ffôn: 01443 482578</p> <p>Ar gyfer ymholiadau anffurfiol neu ragor o wybodaeth am y rhaglen, cysylltwch â: Dr Carolyn Wallace (<a href="mailto:carolyn.wallace@decymru.ac.uk">carolyn.wallace@decymru.ac.uk</a>).</p> <p>Rhagor o wybodaeth: <a href="http://staff.southwales.ac.uk/users/911-cwallace">http://staff.southwales.ac.uk/users/911-cwallace</a></p>	<p><b>Application Process:</b></p> <p>To download an application package, please visit: <a href="#">Participant Application Package</a></p> <p>For any queries on eligibility, please contact: KESS Team at Research and Innovation Services, University of South Wales: <a href="mailto:kess@southwales.ac.uk">kess@southwales.ac.uk</a> Tel: 01443 482578</p> <p>For informal enquiries or further programme information, please contact: Dr Carolyn Wallace (<a href="mailto:carolyn.wallace@southwales.ac.uk">carolyn.wallace@southwales.ac.uk</a>).</p> <p>Further information at: <a href="http://staff.southwales.ac.uk/users/911-cwallace">http://staff.southwales.ac.uk/users/911-cwallace</a></p>
<p><b>Dyddiad cau ar gyfer ceisiadau: Hanner nos Dydd Sul 28 Hydref 2018</b></p> <p><i>Cynhelir cyfweiliadau yn ystod yr wythnos yn dechrau (i'w gadarnhau)</i></p>	<p><b>Closing date for applications: midnight Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b></p> <p><i>Interviews will be held w/c (TBC)</i></p>
<p>Mae Ysgoloriaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth (KESS) yn fenter sgiliau lefel uwch ar draws Cymru a arweinir gan Brifysgol Bangor ar ran y sector AU yng Nghymru. Fe'i cyllidir yn rhannol gan raglen gydgyfeirio Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd (ESF) Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer Dwyrain Cymru.</p>	<p>Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) is a pan-Wales higher-level skills initiative led by Bangor University on behalf of the HE sector in Wales. It is part funded by the Welsh Government's European Social Fund (ESF) programme for East Wales</p>

**Please note: This scholarship is advertised subject to funding confirmation**