

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Please email your report to Healthandcareresearchgrants@gov.wales

(hard copies are not required)

Report date:	December 2023	Project reference:	SCG 21 1844
Lead Researcher:	Dr Clive Diaz		
Host institution:	Cardiff University		
Project Title:	Parental Advocacy in Wales: A Mixed Methods Evaluation of its Effectiveness in Supporting Parents.		
Project start date:	1 st October 2022	Project end date:	30 th September 2024

For guidance, please see overleaf.

Summary of progress for last quarter: (*approximately 200 words*)

Overall, the project continues to progress well. In this quarter, we have been undertaking the following pieces of work:

Scoping Review (In Progress)

We have submitted the Scoping review to the international peer reviewed journal Childcare In Practice. We anticipate that if it accepted by this journal, it will be published in late 2024.

Programme Theory and data collection

We are making progress in finalising our programme theory and during this period we have held several sessions and workshops to test our initial programme theory (IPT). We met with the CASCADE Parents Group in early November, and they gave us some very helpful feedback on our IPT. In mid-November we held a very positive workshop, organised by Exchange, with over 40 participants (mainly social workers, managers, advocates and advocacy managers) to discuss our programme theory and get some useful feedback, which will feed into our finalised programme theory.

We are holding another similar workshop with Exchange to further test our IPT in early December and we are holding a final workshop with Social Care Wales in January 2024. These sessions will also help us to finalise our programme theory.

We continue to carry out interviews and focus groups in our three sites and have done several more interviews with parents and professionals during this period. This again has been very helpful in testing our IPT.

Dissemination

- We recently had our narrative review on parental advocacy published in the Journal of Children's Services. [Devine, R., Benson, K., Fitz-Symonds, S., Westlake, D., Campbell, K. and Diaz, C. \(2023\), "Peer parental advocacy: a narrative review of the literature", *Journal of Children's Services*, Vol. 18 No. 3/4, pp. 244-260. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCS-08-2022-0020>](#)
- We presented two papers on parental advocacy at the recent Kempe International Child Welfare conference, both of these presentations were very well received. We

also made links with other researchers and practitioners with an interest in parental advocacy from different parts of the world.

- We have submitted two abstracts on parental advocacy in Wales for the European Social Work conference which is taking place in April 2024. We have recently heard that one of the abstracts has been accepted, this will provide an important opportunity for us to disseminate our research to an international audience of social work academics and experts.

Objectives for the next quarter

The focus for the next quarter is as follows:

- We will start to work on the final report for this project.
- We will continue to focus on dissemination activities in terms of presenting at conferences for practitioners, parents, advocates, managers, and academics.
- We are going to work with parents (in particular CASCADE's parents group alongside Dr David Tobis), practitioners, and advocates to develop practice guidance for Local Authorities and other organisations interested in developing and implementing parental advocacy services.
- We are working on two journal articles, one based on parental advocacy in Wales and one comparing peer parental advocacy with 'professional' parental advocacy.

Problems Encountered

Have you encountered any problems that have affected the progress of your project?	Yes
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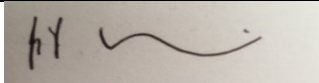
If 'Yes' please expand in comments section below: - *No more than 150 words*

Some key members of the team have had to take time out which is unfortunate. Dr Diaz had a family bereavement and Sammi Fitz-Symonds is currently on sick leave for the foreseeable future. We are being creative to ensure that these issues do not impact on the delivery and successful completion of the project, and will keep the funder informed if any material risks to delivery or timescales arise.

Changes to Protocol

Since the last report, has there been a need to request amendments to the original research protocol?	No
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If 'Yes', you must submit a *Variation to Contract* request before making any changes. See Guidance.

Lead researcher signature:	
Name:	Clive Diaz
Date:	28th November 2023

Guidance

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide Research & Development Division (RDD) in the Health & Social Care Group, Welsh Government, with a brief update for the project over the last quarter.

Progress - (approximately 200 words)

This is to include:

- Relevant milestones in accordance with those set out in your application including those not met, any preliminary results and any recruitment issues.
- Any achievements / highlights that could be publicised by RDD (i.e., website / newsletter)

Your report will be read by the contract manager so therefore please avoid overly technical language when summarising progress made.

Objectives for the next quarter

Please bullet point no more than 6 objectives you wish to achieve in the next quarter.

Problems Encountered

This is to outline any problems which you have encountered over the last quarter including reasons for not meeting milestones or recruitment issues.

Changes to protocol

If the problems you have encountered mean the project needs to be altered or more time needed, then please complete a Variation to Contract (VtC) form. In addition, any changes in your personal circumstances which mean you need to alter your contract should be outlined in a VtC form.

Any change to the Grant 'Purposes' or 'Payment Profile' will require written consent which must be obtained in advance of implementing any change, using a Variation to Contract template. Please note that we are not obliged to give our consent but we will consider all reasonable written requests.

Note: RDD may look at past progress reports when considering a variation request, so please ensure you accurately report all issues/delays that arise.