

# Research Newsletter



## Exploring the Role of Personal Advisors in Wales: A Co-Production Study with Care Experienced Young People

### Overview of the study

Each year a substantial number of young people leave the care system in Wales. These young people face significant challenges during this transition related to housing, education, employment, health and wellbeing. They frequently lack the support networks that are typically experienced by their peers. The support they receive during this time is therefore a critical determinant of their future wellbeing.

In Wales leaving care teams are required to appoint a personal advisor (PA) to each young person leaving care, to support them during this transition. Despite the importance of this role the practices of PAs are not well understood, and relatively little is known about how the role is perceived and experienced.

### Introducing the team



**Dr Phil Smith** -  
Principle Investigator on the project.

**Dr Louise Roberts** -  
Primary Co-Investigator on the project.



**Sammi Fitz-Symonds** -  
Co-Investigator on the project.

The aim of this study is to understand the experiences of young people leaving care, personal advisors and other stakeholders, in relation to receiving and delivering support from PA teams. The study will work collaboratively with participants through a mixture of co-produced and participatory research methods to help develop: practice guidelines, future research related to PA practice, improvements in outcomes for care leavers.

### About CASCADE

*Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE)* is a leading centre for evaluative research in children's social care. CASCADE's mission is to improve the well-being, safety and rights of children and their families. We do this by generating new knowledge about children's social care and sharing new and existing knowledge in ways that help services.

**Lorna Stabler** -  
Research Fellow supporting the project.



**Hannah Lee** -  
Placement student at CASCADE assisting with research.

### What's next...

In the next three months we hope to:

- Have our peer researchers recruited and begin their training
- Produce a scoping review of the literature to understand effective practice in personal advisor support for care leavers
- Produce a paper on the experience of a co-produced study
- Run a magic moments workshop to hear positive stories of practice

### Contact us

Dr Phil Smith

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