

WELSH CONTEXT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE.

1 HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Health & social care are services physical, mental health and social well-being that are available from providers to the UK public (Anglian care, 2024).

Promoting an inclusive environment into health and social care is key for representing all backgrounds in health and social systems. Places such as hospitals, social workers, care homes and community support systems all play in the overall health and social care of society.

Its main goal for health and social care legislations is to improve the quality of life it gives individuals.



2 WALES, UNITED KINGDOM.

Wales, UK a proportionally small state with a population of three million plus people. According to Morgan (2013), Wales is smaller than England but larger than Northern Ireland. Although it is smaller geographically, it makes it possible to travel easily making advantageous in building health and social networks.

For the year 2023, 29.2% of people aged 3 and older were able to speak Welsh. Estimated to around 891,800 people (Welsh Government, 2023).

Equally, Welsh Government (2023), shows the number of Welsh speakers have declined by a 0.6% margin, equating for approximately 17,000 less. This shows the need for preservation of Welsh culture and identity in both health and social care settings.

3 ROLE OF WELSH LANGUAGE IN Care delivery.

Language is key in health and social care as it is the foundation to communication, understanding and meeting each individual with a person-centred care approach. Supported by Welsh government (2022), "Receiving services through the medium of Welsh is a key component in care, especially when discussing sensitive and emotional concerns".

Welsh is the largest linguistic minority group with children aged 3-15 more likely to speak Welsh at 48.6% approximately 232,100 reported (Welsh government 2023).

4 Social Policies & Legislations

- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 act: "modernises the legal framework regarding the use of Welsh language in the delivery of public services" (Welsh Government, 2011).
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: The social services and Welsh language act (2014) enforces the 'active offer' making Welsh as a language readily available without asking or needing to ask readily available to citizens. It recognises the equal connection with English language and Welsh in predominant Welsh areas. (Social Care Wales, n.d).
- Section 6 duty: section 6 of the social services and well-being (Wales) act 2014 places a duty on social services to put individuals' culture, beliefs and languages under consideration. (Social Care Wales, n.d). Local authorities are required to provide bilingual information, and assistance services.

5 CASE STUDY

The case study taken here is from a plan organised by the Welsh government, the more than just words: Welsh language plan 2022-2027, this plan had a significant case, where an elderly patient diagnosed with dementia was admitted for outpatient care. And it proved the significance of language in health care as staff initially found it difficult to engage with the patient. Until, a Welsh-speaking staff member spoke in Welsh and there was a significant response in communication and cooperation. (Welsh government, 2022).

6 CONCLUSION

Language is not just a means to communicate, but it is also a bridge to understanding, practising empathy and gaining trust of patients. In the context of Wales, the Welsh language holds a sense of pride and cultural heritage for its service users especially the elderly. As seen in the Welsh government more than just words initiative, it shows the cognitive connection language has on us as people. The availability of Welsh language enhances patients' experiences, reduced misunderstandings and aligns with patient-centred care practices.