



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## **Data analysis of young carers' health and well-being outcomes to inform policy**

### **Summary**

This is an exciting opportunity to do a work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. This internship will work on evidence to help inform the development of policy interventions to support young carers. This project involves new analysis of existing quantitative data on young people's health and well-being, and scoping research on how Welsh Government can better collect and analyse quality data on young carers. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to research, analyse data, and produce a report, and support the Welsh Government in their research briefing and publication process. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills and to enhance their knowledge of research outside academia.

### **The Organisation**

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales with responsibility for the economy, education, health and the Welsh NHS, business, public services and the environment of Wales.

Specifically, the internship will be based within Knowledge and Analytic services (KAS). KAS provides the collection, analysis and presentation of research and data for policymakers and the general public in keeping with professional standards. They offer independent evidence to understand, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate government policies. KAS also supports policy colleagues with policy development, implementation and delivery.

### **The Internship**

The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. The intern will work with the Children and Young People's Rights in Education Division, the Health and Social Care and Schools social research teams. The internship will require working closely with policy officials and social researchers and will provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop quantitative and generic skills (such as report writing and making presentations), and to enhance policy knowledge.

The successful candidate will benefit from development opportunities offered centrally by the Welsh Government, potentially including mentoring, shadowing, peer support and training.

Interns will benefit from the experience of working closely with the Welsh Government:

- Gaining a better understanding of the world outside of academia and increasing employability, using their knowledge and skills to contribute to the work of the Welsh Government.
- Insight into The School Health Research Network (SHRN), which is a partnership project between Welsh Government, Cardiff University, and Public Health Wales. Insight into this health and well-being dataset, partnership working and potential collaboration with partners.
- The intern's colleagues at the Welsh Government can offer an insight into the intern's PhD project that can contribute to the success of their thesis,' as well as networking opportunities within the policy arena linked to their research area
- Opportunity to work with policy colleagues to consider how research findings may be applied to the Welsh policy context
- Transferable skills and knowledge
- Time management skills
- Report writing skills

## **The Project**

### **Data analysis of young carers' health and well-being outcomes to inform policy**

#### *Background*

An [Estyn thematic report of 2019 about young carers found](#) there is a lack of reliable data to identify how many young carers there are in schools, pupil referral units (PRUs) and colleges across Wales or monitor their progress. Provision for young carers in education settings varies widely. Estyn find that schools, colleges and PRUs most effective in supporting young carers identify these learners, track their well-being needs regularly, and adapt their provision to meet young carers' individual needs. Only some education settings use an information management system to track and report on the educational progress of young carers. The Estyn report calls on the Welsh Government to produce reliable, nationally collected data, to help identify young carers.

Supporting young carers is integral to the Welsh Government's priorities of raising standards and improving attendance and attainment in education. In addition to concerns raised in relation to the [2019 Estyn report](#), the Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee has expressed concerns about a lack of appropriate data to understand and respond to the experiences of young carers. This includes a lack of Wales-based reliable data on the impact of being a young carer in relation to their experiences in education, including in relation to attendance, attainment and well-being.

The [School Health Research Network \(SHRN\)](#) asked learners aged 11-16 whether they are a young carer from surveys between 2017 to 2023. In addition, these learners were asked to indicate how much time they spend caring. Therefore, the [SHRN dataset](#) provides an already existent dataset which could be analysed to show the impact of being a young carer on a learners' health, well-being and general school experience.

We would like to improve our understanding of the impact of their caring role on the young carer. It would also be helpful to understand the relative impact of caring when compared

with other factors, for example to take account of the relative impact of socio-economic factors or protected characteristics (including ethnicity, age, sex, disability).

In addition, we would like to understand the impact (if any) the caring role has on: emotional well-being; ability to participate in extra-curricular activities; ability to complete homework; attendance; educational attainment; peer-relationships; experiences of bullying; support from teachers.

#### *Anticipated project outcomes:*

- Descriptive statistics and analysis of the relationship between carer status and various health and well-being outcomes that are measured in the SHRN dataset (e.g. well-being, life satisfaction, physical activity, relationships with peers).
- Analysis of carer status controlling for variables such as age, gender, and family affluence in relation to health and well-being outcomes.
- A brief overview of relevant literature (can be added to the summary report).
- A summary report of what we can understand about the health and well-being of young carers from the existing SHRN data and implications for policy. The report may also explore potential next steps with data collection (e.g. how we might be able to fill evidence gaps on young carers by adapting existing surveys such as SHRN or the [pupil level annual school census \(PLASC\)](#) and data analysis e.g. a summary of what could be explored by linking with other datasets in the [SAIL databank](#) (e.g. educational attainment and attendance).
- A presentation of the findings to relevant policy and social research teams.
- Publication of a research report on the Welsh Government website.

## **Internship responsibilities and requirements**

The internship will last for a maximum of 3 months. Full time students are expected to step back from their PhD to focus on the placement for its duration in line with ESRC guidelines ([ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide](#) p. 27). Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will work in a hybrid way between home and a Welsh Government office during their internship. This may change depending on Welsh Government policy. Any changes to working arrangements will be discussed with successful applicants.

The internship will last for a period of 3 months full-time or the part-time equivalent. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this internship is available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame (no fewer than three days a working week), this would be negotiated between the WG and the successful applicant. If you would like to be considered on a part-time basis, please specify your preferred working hours on the application form.

## **Student specification**

The student must have:

- Quantitative data analysis skills, including ability to undertake a range of statistical, numerical, and analytical techniques (see table below) using appropriate software such as STATA, SPSS, R, or Python

- Strong evidence appraisal skills
- The ability to discuss with policy team to understand their needs and to carry out desk research and data analysis
- Ability to evaluate research findings and work with policy colleagues to consider how they may be applied
- Ability to produce concise, well written documents, presenting complex evidence in an accessible format

Descriptive statistics	Mean, median, mode, frequency tables, cross-tabulations	Summarize and explore data
Data visualization	Histograms, boxplots, scatterplots, bar charts	Identify patterns and distributions
Data cleaning & preparation	Handling missing data, recoding variables, creating dummy variables	Prepare data for analysis
Inferential statistics	T-tests, chi-square tests, anova	Test group differences
Regression modelling	Linear regression, logistic regression, multivariate regression	Examine relationships and control for confounders
Multivariable control	Interaction terms, stratified analysis, propensity score matching	Adjust for age, gender, ses, etc.
Causal inference	Longitudinal analysis, fixed effects, instrumental variables	Strengthen causal claims

## Start date of internship

January 2026. There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

Contact [freya.pryce@gov.wales](mailto:freya.pryce@gov.wales) to discuss an indicative project schedule.

## Funding and costs

Reasonable travel costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. Requests should be consistent with Wales Graduate School for the Social Sciences (WGSSS) guidelines. Applications from students requiring additional funding for travel and accommodation will not be treated less favourably. For any queries on this please contact Katy Marrin [Katy.Marrin001@gov.wales](mailto:Katy.Marrin001@gov.wales) and Jo Coates [Joanne.Coates@gov.wales](mailto:Joanne.Coates@gov.wales).

## Security

The Welsh Government's vetting procedures (which apply to temporary as well as permanent staff) involve the completion of a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) application form and a Security Questionnaire for the purpose of security vetting.

This process requires the applicant to produce in person three original forms of identification documents, one of which should be photographic (passport, new driving license), one document should showing their current address, plus one of: a utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

## **Nationality requirements**

'Eligibility for taking up an internship on this scheme is dependent on meeting the [Civil Service Nationality rules](#). Please check that you are eligible before applying. Those who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be able to take up a placement opportunity.

## **Queries**

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed to [freya.pryce@gov.wales](mailto:freya.pryce@gov.wales)

## **Privacy notice**

<https://www.gov.wales/welsh-government-privacy-notice>