

Grant recipient: Laura Ingham

Grant: Research Starter Grant 2025

Title of project: Evaluation methods used to assess the impact of general practice based occupational therapy services within the context of value-based healthcare

Abstract:

The need to support people with their health differently was accelerated by Covid-19 against a backdrop of services already challenged by people living longer. To address this in primary care, a wider range of professions are now supporting people at home. This includes occupational therapy who help people to participate in their meaningful everyday activities. The benefit of this development, however, still remains unclear. There is a lack of research to help people understand how occupational therapists can best consider and show the difference they make in General Practice and whether methods they use help demonstrate if their services offer good value to people who use them. Occupational therapy research in primary care has been deemed important. Without a better understanding of how the results of occupational therapy support can best be measured, the value and benefit of services provided in General Practice may be difficult to show. This may limit the profession's development at a time where keeping people well is becoming more difficult and prevent individuals in all communities from getting support that could benefit them. The aim of this study is to review the methods being used in Wales to measure the occupational therapy services being provided within General Practice, to inform future service planning. Research will include online interviews with those involved in planning primary care services and with people who have used occupational therapy in General Practice within Wales. A questionnaire will then be sent to occupational therapy staff and students experienced in primary care.