

A map of Wales showing its county boundaries. Several counties are highlighted in yellow: Anglesey, Conwy Valley, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Wrexham County, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Swansea & the Gower, Bridgend, Glamorgan, and The Valleys. Major cities and towns are labeled in red: Holyhead, Llandudno, Barmouth, Aberystwyth, Tenby, Swansea, and Cardiff. Other labels in grey include Snowdonia, Powys, Neath, and Monmouth.

Doing it differently in Wales

Designed to inform: information specialists supporting evidence based public health policy and practice

Wales Facts and Figures

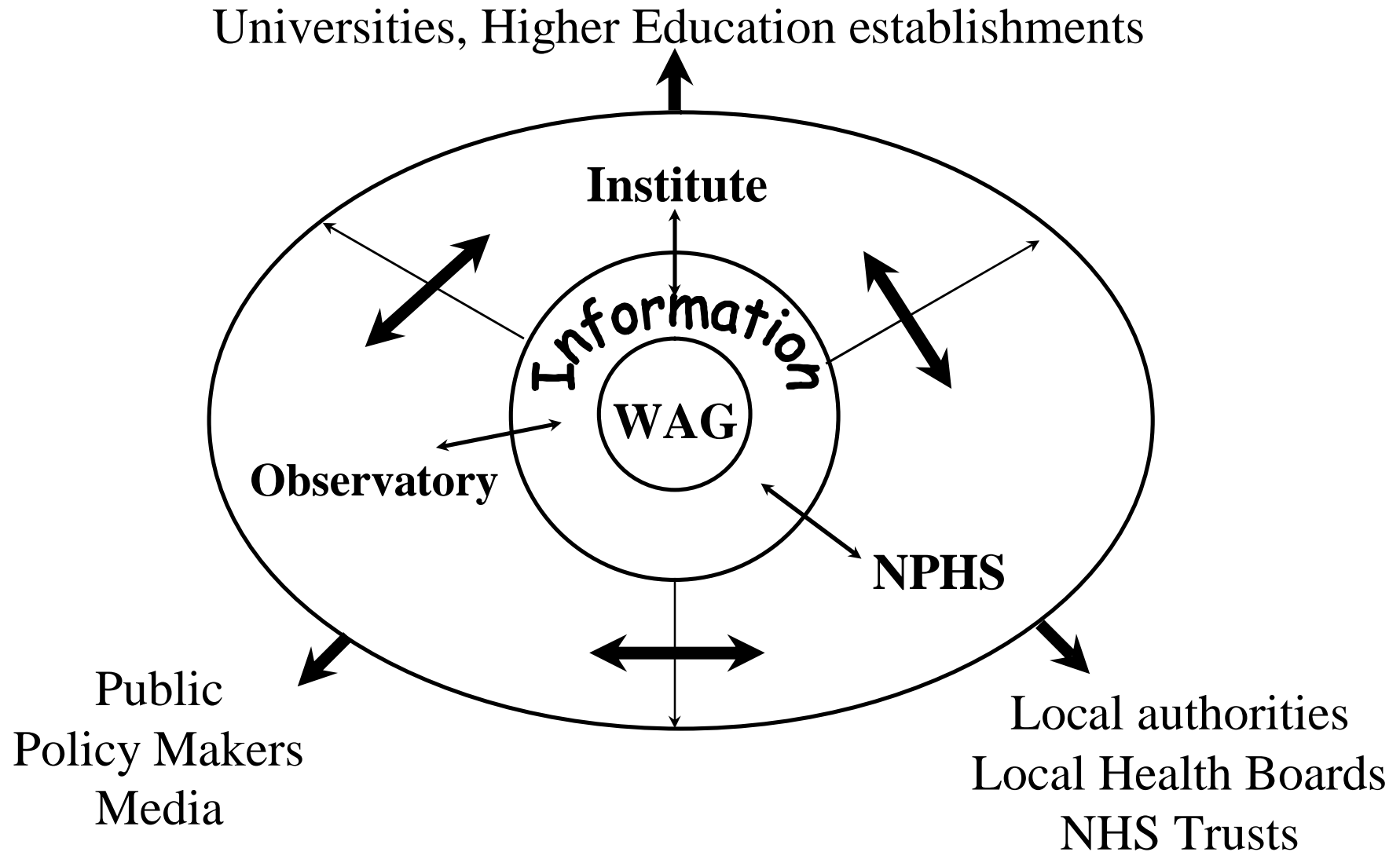
- Geographically next door to England - on the map of Europe!
- A population of just under 3 million - more sheep than people!
- A devolved administration - Welsh Assembly Government
- Public Health led by Chief Medical Officer Wales

Policy Context for Public Health in Wales

- A Healthy Future: development of a Public Health Strategic Framework for Wales
- Unified system for delivering public health via
- National Public Health Service
- Welsh Public Health Observatory
- National Institute of Public Health

All to be in place or underway by April 2009.

Information at the centre



The Green Light for our work

The Public Health Observatory to:

- provide meaningful information to the general public and policymakers

The Public Health Institute to:

- be citizen-centred promoting public engagement

Libraries in Wales

- CyMAL a Division in the Assembly Government providing policy advice on libraries, archives and museums.
- Libraries for Life programme brings together libraries from all sectors.
- Health libraries in public health, university, specialist and hospitals across Wales - a joined up network.

Health Promotion Library

- Over 20 years experience delivering a unique service.
- Library central part of the Department of Public Health and Health Professions.
- National all Wales role.
- Delivers information services to policy colleagues and to the people of Wales.

Health Promotion Library

- Services successfully delivered to quality Charter Mark standards.
- World Health Organization Documentation Centre Status and strong European links.
- Tailored services for policy customers.
- Adaptable taking on new challenges.

Service Vision

- To provide equitable access to quality, up-to-date public health information supporting evidence based policies and strategies.
- The use of research evidence by public health practitioners.
- A more informed general public.

Service delivery: professionals

- Policy-mapping tools for the public health strategic framework.
- Public health submission for e-resources as part of the NHS Wales e-library.
- Information the key to health needs assessments.
- Health promotion research bulletins.

Research bulletins

- First published in 1993/4 as quarterly bulletins from journals held in house.
- 2003 - contract agreed to publish bulletins on Mental Health.
- Clear criteria and scope agreed.
- Link to policy work.

Research bulletins - 2004-2008

- Supporting public health priorities, national initiatives and campaigns.
- Topic areas for the year agreed with Policy Head of Health Improvement.
- Library drafts scope and works with policy leads to agree articles to include.
- Evidence graded with practice implications.

Evaluating evidence-based delivery

Annual Customer survey shows:

- More than 65% customers use Research bulletins regularly or occasionally.
- More than 75% find them useful or very useful.
- High levels of satisfaction over more than ten years with enquiry services.

Customer comments

- ‘Bulletins and updates are useful and informative.’
- ‘This is a must when we use the research to inform local decision making and recommendations.’
- ‘These should be available online - they need to be more widely accessible.’

Service delivery: the public

- Health Challenge Wales: small steps to a healthier you!
- Marketing to individuals and organisations.
- Delivery of health information stands in public libraries.
- Book Prescription Wales - mental health.
- Public libraries - health literacy.

Partnerships: key to success

Wide ranging partnership working with:

- Other Assembly Departments - health in all policies
- Public Health Services Wales
- Trusts and NHS Direct consumer Helpline
- Local Government and Voluntary Sector
- World Health Organization

Plans for the future

Improving services for all by:

- delivering a unified information and knowledge service across Wales
- making best use of skills and expertise
- using our resources more cost-effectively
- empowering the public health community to make best use of evidence

Contact details

Sue Thomas

Librarian

Health Promotion Library

Welsh Assembly Government

Email: susan.thomas@wales.gsi.gov.uk