National Assembly for Wales Academic Fellowship scheme  
2020 Directed Call: Project outline

Child and Young Person Suicide Prevention

Lead Researcher: Phil Boshier, Senedd Research

1  Description of the Project

A paper that addresses the questions of:

- the benefits and wider potential of using the internet as a primary intervention for child and young person suicide prevention
- how the internet could be practically used to help prevent child suicide, including those who have left school education at 16.

The paper will, if possible, include evidence-based policy recommendations for Welsh Government and other relevant stakeholders where needed.

Child suicide prevention, and child mental health more generally, is an on-going and extremely important focus of the work of the Assembly’s Children, Young People and Education Committee led by its Chair Lynne Neagle. It has also been a focus of the work of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee who completed a report on suicide prevention in December 2018.

2  Skills/expertise required

Research background in mental health / well-being of children / child suicide and self-harm, or another suitably related discipline or research area (this can be discussed with interested persons).

Ability and willingness to draft papers that are suitable for, and can engage sensitively with lay audiences.

Willingness to present papers and findings to lay audiences such as Assembly Committees.

Knowledge of Welsh Government, its aims and objectives in relation to R&D and economic development, and its policy-making machinery.
3 Expected Outputs

A substantial paper of several thousand words.
An executive summary of the paper.
A blog post addressing the paper.
A slide-deck for presenting the paper.
Possibly a short video presentation, or to assist with the script of a video presentation of the paper intended for social media lay audiences.

4 Expected timescale

This is not a time-sensitive piece of work but we do not anticipate it going beyond December 2020. We suggest 6-8 months is a realistic timeframe for a final draft of the paper.

5 Working arrangements

A meeting with the Fellow to scope out in detail the piece of work, the meeting would likely also involve the Chair of the Children, Education and Young People Committee.

Meeting (in person or via Skype / video-conferencing) at least once a week at key points in the work (start-up, final drafting / editing etc) but otherwise very flexible.

Attend the National Assembly offices in Cardiff to present their paper / findings / recommendations and discuss with Members.