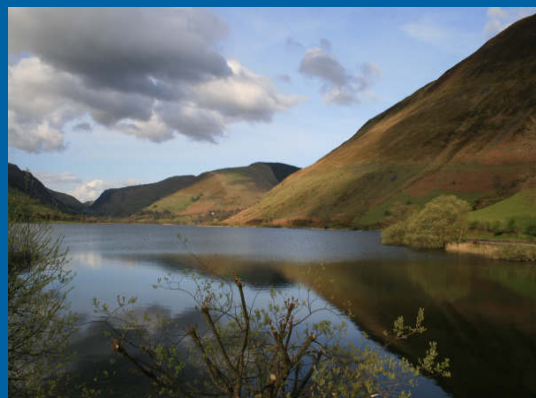


Involving Older People in Ageing Research in Wales



Judith Phillips
Beryl Riley
Kelly Fitzgerald
J. Martin Riley



2 February 2009
Brussels, Belgium



www.swansea.ac.uk
www.abertawe.ac.uk

The Vision for Wales

Vision:

- To make Wales *the* place to do research into ageing and older people
- Services tailored to the needs of communities and individuals and delivered by research-aware practitioners

- Collaboration

Involving People



Achieved by:

- Older People and Ageing R&D Network (OPAN Cymru) www.opanwales.org.uk
- One of nine thematic research networks funded in Wales – including mental health, children, dementia, emergency care, epilepsy



Why an Older People and Ageing Network?

- Demographic imperative
- Policy priority
- Need to involve older people in research
- A broader vision of ageing



Aims

1: To enhance the quality and volume of research

Identify research priorities and strategies with older people

2: To improve integration of policy, practice and research

Develop models to engage older people

3: To facilitate collaborative research

Build strong links with other older people's networks e.g. National Partnership Forum for Older People

Importance of Participatory Approaches

Benefits

- Acquisition of new skills & knowledge
- Increased self esteem and confidence
- Contribute to interpretation of results; capacity to influence decision making and policy formation
- Making visible the lives of older people



Issues

- Empowerment vs. disempowerment
- Inclusion issues
- Diversity of participatory approaches

Participatory Approaches in OPAN

- Involving People
- Research Development Groups
- U3A research group
- Network 50+
- OPAN advisory and steering groups
- Older people as researchers
 - Older People's Use of Unfamiliar Space (OPUS)
(ESRC funded study)
 - RuralWIDe Model



Involving People

How *Involving People* can help:

- ✓ Database of researchers and people wishing to participate
- ✓ Enabling People Fund
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Providing researchers with:
 - Advice on best practice
 - Link with patients, carers, service users



Involving People

RuralWIDe: Involvement in a Participatory Research Project as a Volunteer

Survey of older people in Gwynedd

- Wider benefits
 - Social
 - Face to face contact better than a form
 - Learning opportunity
- Difficulties
 - Inaccurate information
 - Transport



Worldwide Presence

Older People and
Ageing R&D Network
(OPAN Cymru)

www.opanwales.org.uk



Contact Details

Professor Judith Phillips, OPAN Co-director

judith.e.phillips@swansea.ac.uk

Dr Kelly Fitzgerald, OPAN Co-ordinator

k.g.fitzgerald@swansea.ac.uk

Canon Martin Riley & Mrs. Beryl Riley

johnmartinriley@hotmail.com

OPAN Website: www.opanwales.org.uk

