

# Role of the Knowledge Development and Transfer Branch, Welsh Assembly Government



- Sits alongside HE Policy Branch- small team with secondments from HE sector and DE&T
- Maximise the economic impact of Welsh HE – joint DCELLS/ DE&T commercialisation agenda
- Higher level skills agenda, including graduate employability and input into the HE Review
- Science- Review STEM supply chain and deliver National Science Academy
- Liaison with Research Councils - research collaboration agenda- our focus today.



# **Improving Wales's share of Research Council income and enhancing research collaboration in Wales**

Rachel Garside-Jones

Louise Bright



## 6 month time limited project

- Aims
- Outcomes
- Recommendations

# Overarching aims



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- To identify existing research collaborations and networks that may enhance collaboration
- To explore where collaborations have flourished and investigate why and how the collaborations were fostered
- To pick two subject areas to pilot to bring academics, HEFCW, WAG and Research Councils together to enhance collaboration and to explore funding opportunities
- To explore the opportunities of promoting collaboration at research student level by providing joint training events for research students across Wales

# To identify existing research collaborations and networks that may enhance collaboration



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Cyngor Cyllido Addysg  
Uwch Cymru  
Higher Education Funding  
Council for Wales

hefcw



# To explore where collaborations have flourished and investigate why and how the collaborations were fostered

## Information from:

- Collaboration Questionnaire
- The two workshops
- Face to face meetings with funders of research and HEIs

## Issues include:

- Politics between HEIs
- Need to collaborate with the best
- Worry over “poaching” good staff
- Confidence
- Lack of time

To pick two subject areas to pilot to bring academics, HEFCW, WAG and Research Councils together



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- Ageing, Health and Lifelong Wellbeing
- Digital Economy

# Ageing, Health and Lifelong Wellbeing Participants



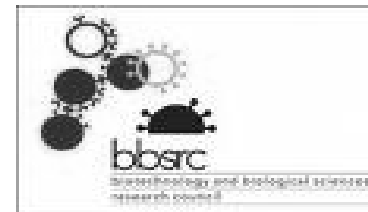
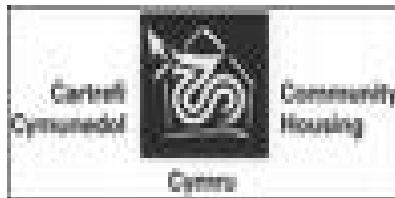
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Arts & Humanities  
Research Council



# Ageing, Health and Lifelong Wellbeing ning



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RESEARCH INTO AGEING, HEALTH AND LIFELONG WELLBEING EVENT - Wales Ageing, Health and Lifelong W - Broadcom Corporation

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Address http://walesageingresearch.ning.com/events/event/show?id=2753261%3AEvent%3A8


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## Wales Ageing, Health and Lifelong Wellbeing Research Network

For those involved in research in Ageing, Health and Lifelong Wellbeing


Main Invite My Page Members **Events** Blogs Member info Notes Manage

All Events My Events + Add an Event



**RESEARCH INTO AGEING, HEALTH AND LIFELONG WELLBEING EVENT**  
Added by [Louise Bright](#)  
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**Event Details**



Time: [January 28, 2009](#) from 9:30am to 4pm  
Location: [http://www.cardiffcityhall.com/CH\\_location\\_e.htm](http://www.cardiffcityhall.com/CH_location_e.htm)  
Contact Info: 029 20826571  
Event Type: [Open Space](#), [Facilitation](#)  
Organized By: [Louise Bright](#)  
Latest Activity: [Jan 20](#)  
+ [Invite More People](#) ↓ [Export to Outlook or iCal \(.ics\)](#)

**Admin Options**

- ★ [Feature](#)
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**Event Description**

A meeting for those involved in research in the area of Ageing, Health and Lifelong Wellbeing to meet and discover synergies and opportunities to collaborate across Wales.  
The open space meeting will bring researchers working in areas relevant to Ageing, Health and

**Louise Bright**  
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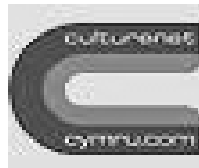
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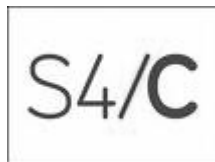
# Digital Economy Participants



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Arts & Humanities  
Research Council



Communities @One  
Cymunedau @Ei Gilydd



# Digital Economy ning



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Welsh Assembly Government

Wales Digital Economy Research - A space for those researching in the area of the digital econo - Broadcom Corporation

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Address http://walesdigiteconomy.ning.com/

Ning Create Your Own Social Network Louise Bright Search

## Wales Digital Economy Research

A space for those researching in the area of the digital economy to collide

Main Invite My Page Members Forum Events Notes Manage

For researchers in the Digital Economy (DE). It is intended to be used after the DE event to sustain the network created there.

### Members

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### Events

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+ Add an Event

### Forum

Edit

Welcome to your new social network, Louise Bright!

Here are a few things you can do right now...

Invite friends Add Applications Start a discussion ADD\_AN\_EVENT2 Make it unique

### Text Box

Edit

+ Add Text - Put text, HTML, videos, photos, or any third-party widgets here.

### Notes

Edit

#### Interesting Notes from the Ageing, Health and Lifelong Wellbeing event

... Continue

Created by Louise Bright Feb 6, 2009 at 1:04pm. Last updated by Louise Bright Feb 6.

#### Invitation to Digital Heritage Event

The Government has identified the Digital Economy as a priority area for securing Britain's industrial and economic future. Over the next 3 years the UK's Research Councils will be investing over £100 million to help build capacity and expertise in the skills needed to realise the Digital Economy.

... Continue

Created by Louise Bright Feb 6, 2009 at 1:00pm. Last updated by Louise Bright Feb 6.

#### Notes taken from 5th Feb event

### Louise Bright

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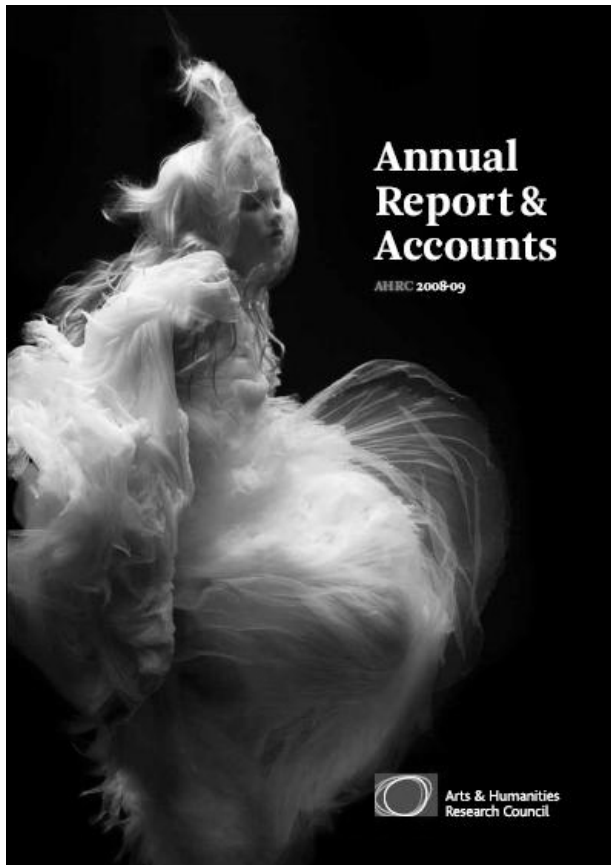
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working from home, this online business

Done Internet



The AHRC has been working with the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to assist Welsh HEIs to better engage with the KT agenda, particularly in areas of interest to the arts and humanities. In February an event was held, co-sponsored by AHRC and WAG, for researchers and other stakeholders interested in the Digital Economy Programme – a cross-cutting theme for the Research Councils – with a further workshop on Digital Heritage hosted by the University of Glamorgan.

# Building Networks



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- with academics and HEIs
- with Research Councils
- within WAG

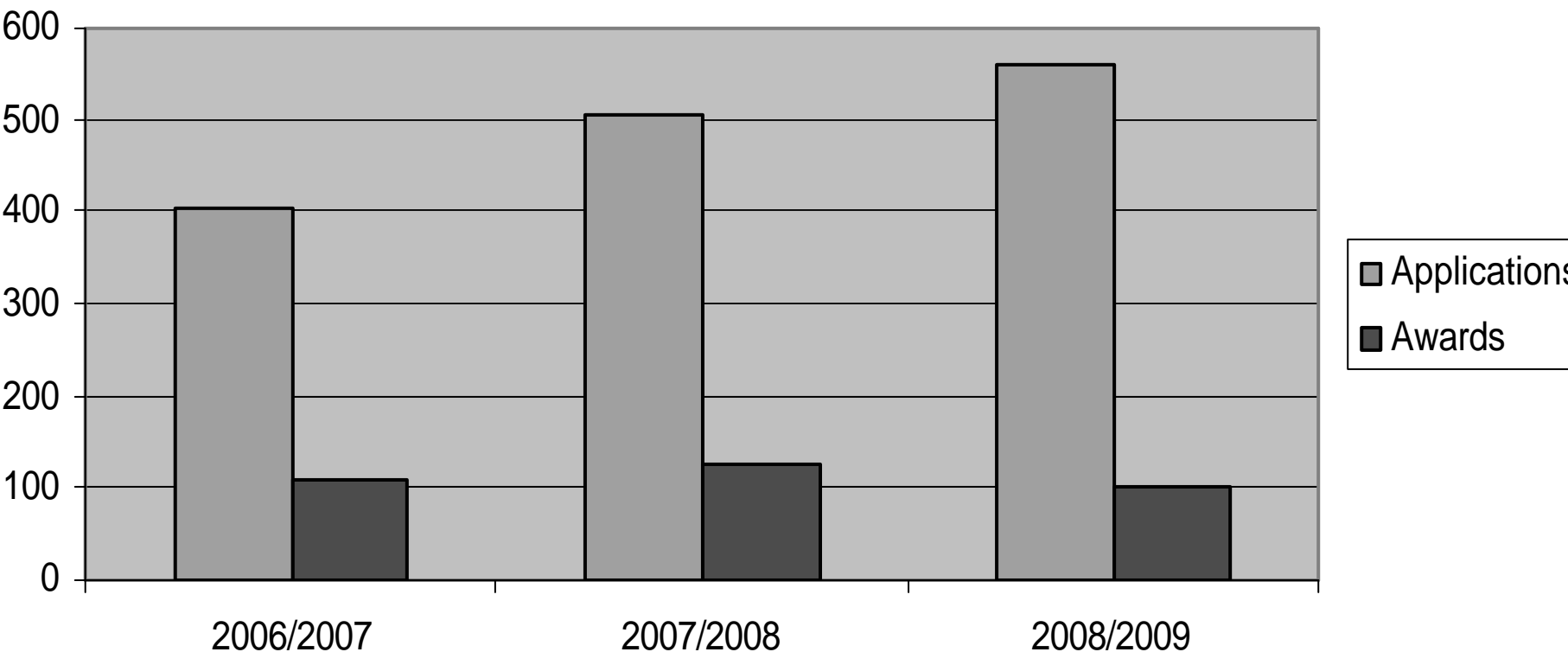
This has resulted in raising the profile of research and Research Councils across Departments and with Ministers

# Initial Findings



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## Research Council Applications and Awards to Welsh HEIs 2006-2009





- Networking events can kick start collaborations – just providing a “space to collide” can make it happen
- Need experts in a discipline to then carry out interdisciplinary work
- Real collaboration costs – money, time.....
- Funders of research know a collaboration on paper from the “real deal”



- Internal peer review before submission to Research Council is important
- What is Wales known for?
- There is a need for bigger, collaborative proposals – landscape changing
- Wales should showcase research strengths

# Taking the agenda forward



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- Continue to work with the Research Councils to showcase researchers in Welsh HEIs
- Form a network of Research Support Officers
- Initiate meetings of those from Welsh HEIs who sit on Research Council Boards and Panels
- Continue to work with the Wales Vitae Network to facilitate an SDF bid to support joined up graduate researcher training



# The WROLOs

- Institutional Research Strategies
- Peer Review
- Securing FP7 income
- Professionalising Research Management



# Sector Priority Events

- Digital Economy 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Low Carbon Economy 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Health and Biosciences
- Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing

# Reaching Higher



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- Welsh HEIs have historically found it hard to generate the critical mass necessary to **lift the number of successful applications for Research Council funding.**
- **The sector carries administration costs above the norm** perhaps as much as 4% higher than the average of the other HEI sectors in the UK .

# How can support staff support researcher collaboration?



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- Build in time for researchers to meet and chat at events – don't fill the agenda completely
- Think about layout of events – round tables are better than theatre style for conversations
- Food!



# Systems

- Try and ensure systems are equipped to cope with joint funding applications
- Try to network with your counterparts in different HEIs
- Collaboration is worthwhile if the sum of the parts adds value

# Postgraduate Researchers



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- Raise awareness regarding collaboration
- Include events (or sections of events) on developing the skills necessary for collaboration
- Lead by example.....