

**SOCIAL WORK** addresses barriers, inequalities and injustices that exist in society by focussing on people's strengths. It responds to crises, emergencies and everyday personal and social problems. Through relationship approaches, it aims to help people access services and resources in their community to maintain their independence and self determination.

**DIETITIANS** assess, diagnose and treat nutrition problems from an individual to public health level. They work to prevent conditions such as diabetes and CVD. Dietitians treat malnutrition in patients eg with dementia, COPD, stroke, cancer. Dietitians' work improves quality of life, reduces complications, saves money and prevents hospital admissions.

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS** enable people to do the things that are important to them. Choosing and carrying out meaningful occupations (activities) is essential to good health, wellbeing and independence. Uniquely, occupational therapists integrate across health, social care and housing: physical and mental health as well as in primary and secondary care.

**COLLEGE OF PARAMEDICS** is the recognised professional body for paramedics. The College has written a new scope of practice alongside a new curricula framework. This will allow the profession to meet the urgent care reform and the PEEP recommendations. It will therefore give patients greater access to prudent healthcare.

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS** use manual therapy, therapeutic exercise and rehabilitative approaches to: restore, maintain and improve movement and activity; support people in managing their own condition and maintain their independence; prevent future episodes of ill health and disability. Physiotherapy prevents hospital admissions, reduces bed days and dependence on complex care packages.

**RADIOGRAPHERS** are at the forefront of technological change in diagnostic imaging, cancer treatment and care. The majority of patients who attend hospital will be seen by a radiographer for diagnosis or radiotherapy treatment. The population is ageing and the demand on services, particularly cancer treatment, will continue to rise.

**CHIROPODISTS & PODIATRISTS** know that healthy feet are one of the most important healthcare interventions to keep people fit and active. Poor foot health can severely impact on people's lives making them less mobile, more susceptible to other general illnesses and more likely to suffer complications from other conditions such as diabetes and arthritis.

**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS** transform lives for people with communication and swallowing difficulties which, without help, severely limit participation in school, work, social and family life. They establish strategies for people to communicate with dignity their wishes about their life. Early intervention gives children the tools to rise out of poverty. Managing risks from swallowing avoids hospital admissions.

**PHARMACISTS** provide expert clinical advice on the effective use and safe supply of medicines. Their skills contribute to the prevention of health and social care problems by identifying health issues early, delivering immunisation programmes, managing and coaching people on common and complex conditions, and coordinating medicines across the multidisciplinary team.

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The Society of  
Chiropodists  
& Podiatrists



The Society of  
Radiographers

**BDA** The Association  
of UK Dietitians



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Wales Cymru



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## Essential to delivering preventative and admission avoidance services: a UNIQUE WORKFORCE

Allied Health and Social Care professionals in Wales require the political parties in the 2016 election to:

- Make best use of the unique, person centred approach of therapy, diagnostic and pharmacy professionals, social workers and paramedics in early intervention and prevention services.
- Re-state their commitment to community based preventative and early intervention services which enable people to live their lives as independently as possible.
- Ensure health and social care organisations deliver services which result in measureable outcomes for citizens.

Outcome for your constituents:

- Avoid unnecessary hospital admissions
- Enable people to remain living at home
- Reduce and delay dependence on care packages
- Reduce risk and harm for vulnerable adults and children
- Improve medicine management
- Provide high quality timely diagnostic and therapeutic services
- Prevent or minimise the impact of a crisis