

Demonstrating Value and Impact

A qualitative evaluation project exploring Band 7 Allied Health Professionals' perspectives on measuring outcomes in preventative and public health initiatives

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Introduction

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) are increasingly recognised as key contributors to public health and preventative care. However, **demonstrating their value and impact remains challenging**, particularly at frontline clinical levels. While much existing work reflects strategic or policy viewpoints, **the perspectives of Band 7 AHPs, who balance clinical practice with service leadership, are less understood.**

This study explored how Band 7 AHPs within one Welsh health board **perceive and demonstrate their value and impact** in public health and preventative care.

Methods

A mono-method qualitative design was employed, using semi-structured interviews with Band 7 AHP participants

Recruitment via senior managers within the Healthboard

Semi-structured Interviews complete via MS Teams

Interviews transcribed and pseudonymised for confidentiality

Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006)

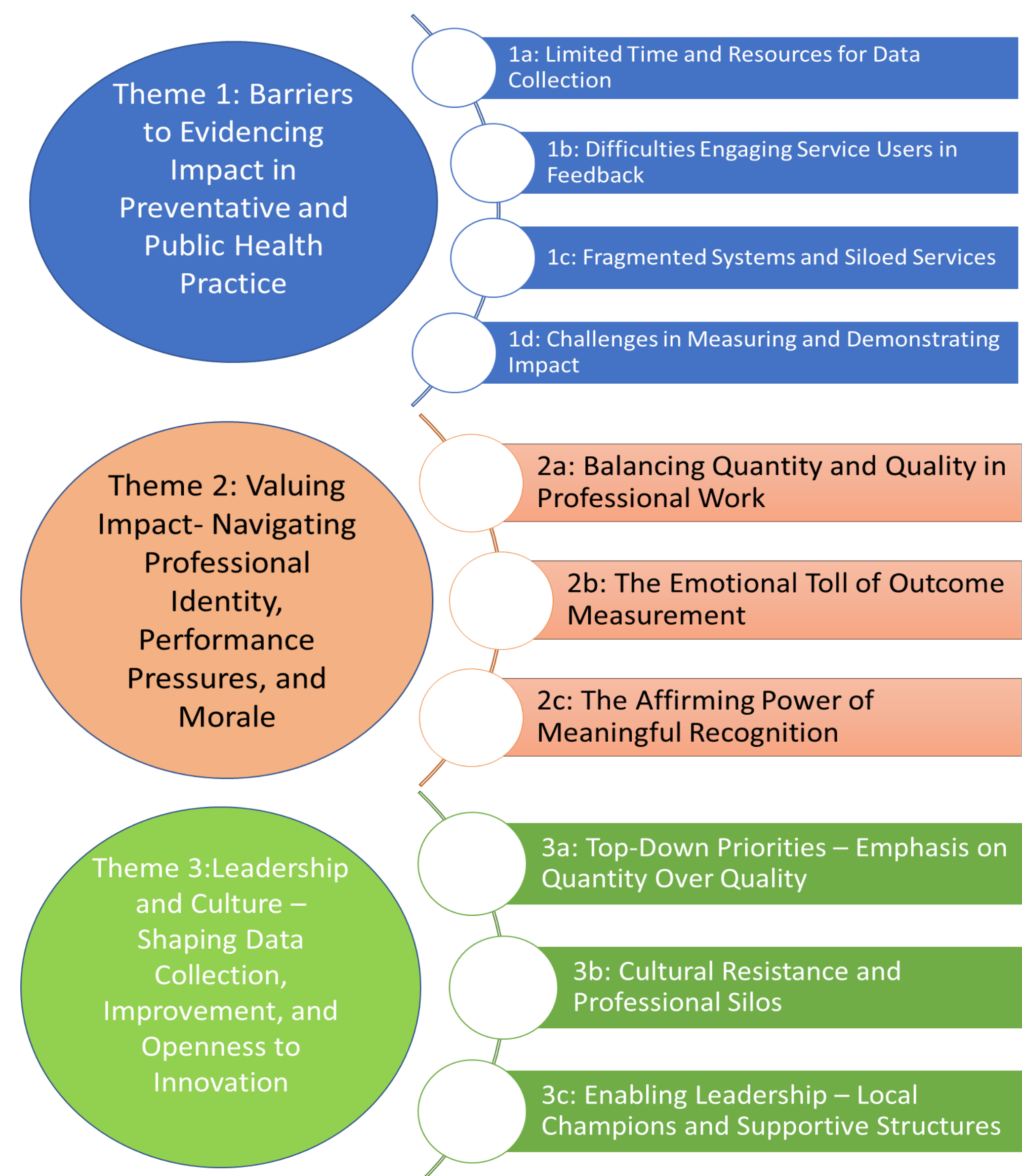
Reporting via COREQ checklist (Tong et al., 2007)

Key References

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Outcomes

Five Band 7 AHPs were interviewed across **Nutrition & Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Speech & Language Therapy**. Three main these were identified:



Learnings

- Band 7 AHPs experienced major challenges evidencing impact at patient, team, and system levels.
- Leadership and organisational culture strongly influenced morale, innovation, and service improvement.
- The evaluation project provides rare frontline insights into the realities of demonstrating preventative impact within AHP practice.

What's next?

Practice:

Strengthen AHP capacity by **embedding public health in roles**, providing **protected time**, and offering **targeted CPD** in leadership and impact measurement.

Policy:

Co-produce an All-Wales AHP outcomes framework to support consistent measurement and improvement.

Future Research:

Conduct a **Wales-wide study** with a larger, more diverse AHP sample to broaden perspectives on demonstrating impact.