

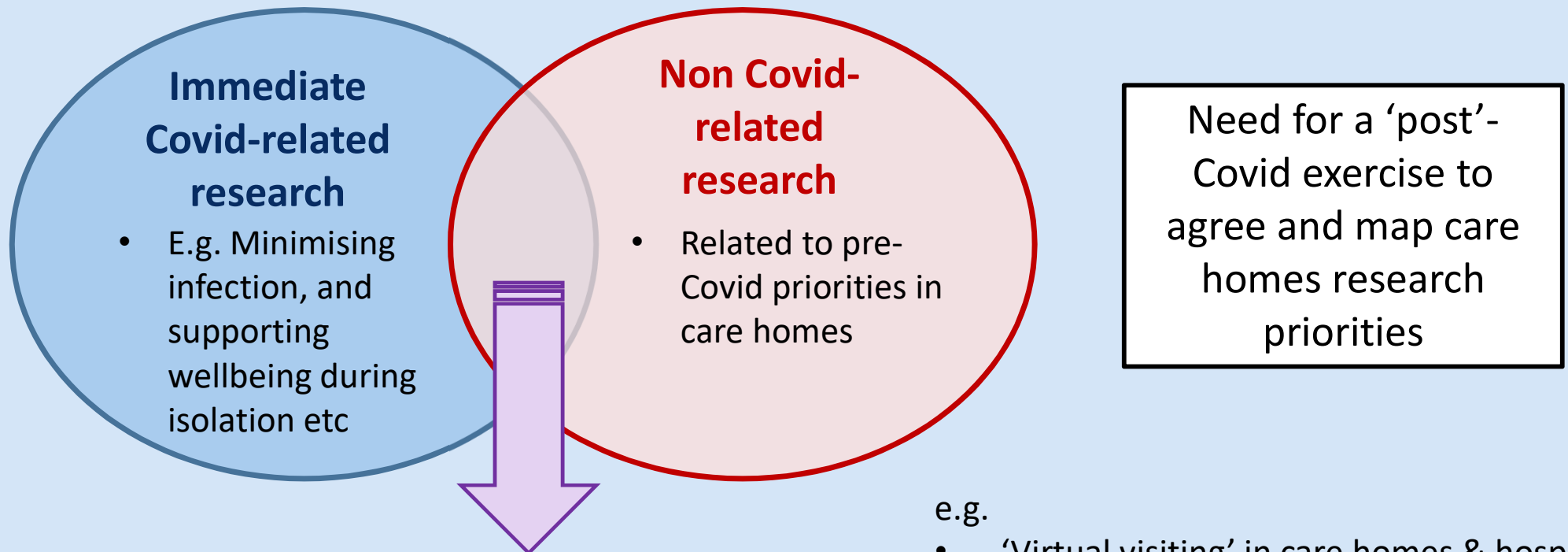
The Future of Research in Residential
Care Homes Post-Covid –
and the role of BSG Care Homes
Research SIG

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Questions for Care Home Researchers

1. **What** are the priorities for care homes research 'post' Covid?
2. **When** do we resume care homes research?
3. **How** can we best support care home research post Covid?
 - ENRICH
 - BSG Care Homes Research SIG

1. What are the priorities for care homes research 'post' Covid?



New Priorities and Innovations

- New and existing issues caused or highlighted by Covid e.g. staff employment practices; longer-term health impacts.
- New innovations e.g. virtual connectivity.

e.g.

- 'Virtual visiting' in care homes & hospitals (UWE^a).
- Developmental of digital training tools for care home staff (e.g. person-centred care programme by Exeter and KCL^b)

^a <https://enrich.nihr.ac.uk/uwe-emergency-care-research-exploring-virtual-visiting-in-uk-care-homes-or-hospital/>

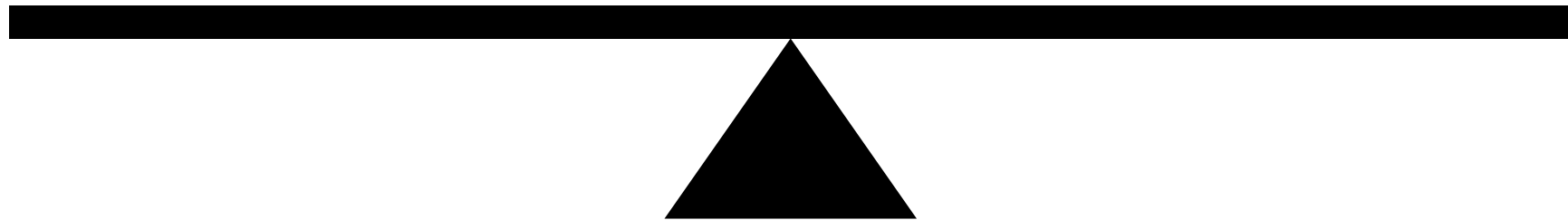
^b <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/new-research-to-personalise-care-for-people-with-dementia-in-care-homes-during-covid-19-pandemic/25812>

2. When do we resume care homes research?

CQC (2020) highlight the importance of balancing:

**Priority of reducing
Covid-19 transmission**

**The needs and rights of
those receiving care**



*How do we balance **costs** of e.g. increased staff burden and potential for increased transmission, with the **potential gains** from the research outputs (in an already under-researched population)?*

2. When do we resume care homes research?

- Initial priority is for urgent (e.g. life preserving) Covid/non-Covid research (e.g. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/restart-framework/24886>)
- Some non-urgent care homes research is possible e.g.

Case study

Horne et al: *Developing an interactive staff training resource to engage and meet the sexuality and intimacy needs of care home residents* (funded by Abbeyfield Research Foundation).

- *Some care homes no longer able to take part. BUT:*
- *Many staff welcomed the opportunity to do something that was not Covid-related.*
- *Move to online data collection (focus groups) has made it easier to recruit staff across different shift patterns.*

Covid-related adaptations to research may drive some methodological innovation

3. How can we best support care home research?

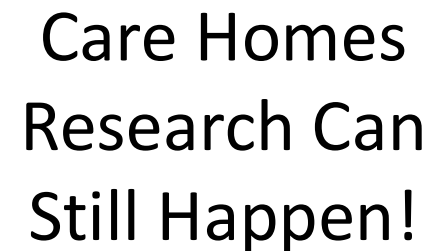
- Adult social care is already a challenging context in which to do research (e.g. Cyhlarova, Clark, & Knapp, 2020)
- Covid-19 has, and will continue to, exacerbate these difficulties.
- Shows importance of working with, and learning from, others:
 - ENabling Research In Care Homes (ENRICH) network
 - BSG Care Homes Research Special Interest Group

ENRICH

ENabling Research In Care Homes

<https://enrich.nihr.ac.uk/>

- Toolkit of information and resources for care homes researchers
- Care homes research news
- Database of 'research ready' care homes
- Local network support for projects



Care Homes
Research Can
Still Happen!

BSG Care Homes Research Special Interest Group (SIG)

Hosted by British Society of Gerontology, and supported by Cambridge University Press



- Initial interest meeting: July 2019
- Officially established ~ Nov 2019
- 110 current members

Aims:

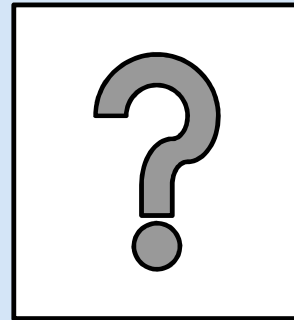
- to bring together BSG members, plus other academics and stakeholders...
- ...in order to strengthen research, policy and practice impact in care homes



SIG Leadership team



Christine Brown Wilson
Queen's University Belfast



Blog Lead



Maria Horne
University of Leeds



Mark Jayes
Manchester Metropolitan Uni



Kathy Curtis
Kingston University



Chad Witcher
University of Portsmouth



Laura Brown
University of Manchester

Objectives and Activities

- Provide platforms for debate and discussion
- Facilitate networking and collaboration
- Increase capacity for care homes research
- Promote methodological development
- Support the dissemination and application of research findings

- Twitter [@BSGCarehomes](#)
- Regular, themed, free online symposia (3/4 per year)
- Close working relationship with ENRICH
- *Planned*: members' directory
- *Planned*: public care homes research blog

Symposium programme

- **2nd July 2020:** inaugural SIG symposium
 - research talks from SIG members; presentation from ENRICH; plus discussions on future of SIG, and how to support care homes research during/after Covid (recording and details on our website)
- **Nov 2020** (exact date TBC soon):
 - ‘Promoting independence and wellbeing among those living with dementia in long-term care/care homes’ (Speakers: Dr Caitlin McArthur and Dr Kellyn Lee)
- **2021**
 - Ethics and Research Governance in Care Homes Research
 - Frailty in Care Homes

To join or find out more about the SIG:



BSGcarehomes@gmail.com



[@BSGCarehomes](https://twitter.com/BSGCarehomes)



<https://www.britishgerontology.org/about-bsg/special-interest-groups/care-homes>



Thank you for listening

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