

*Making the Invisible Visible:*

# A Strategic Framework for Nursing Older People in Wales

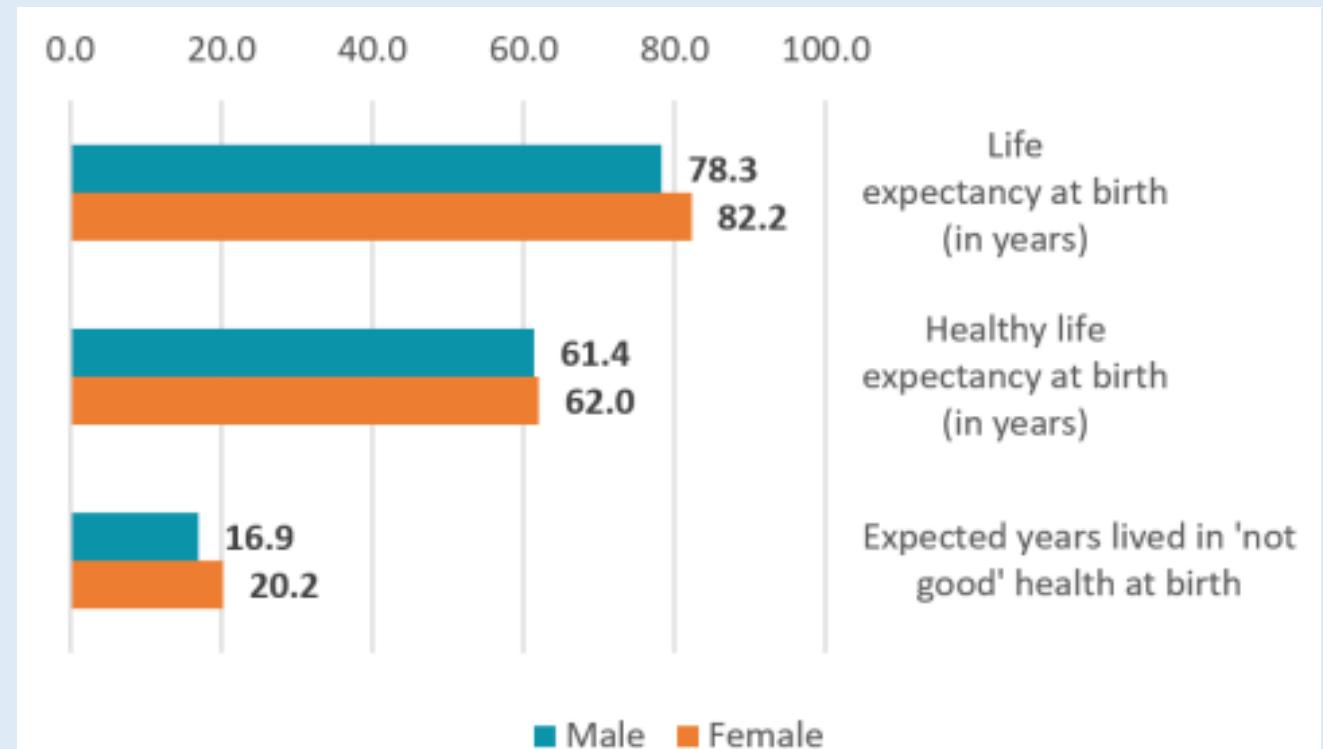
*“Seeing Every Colour of a Person’s  
Rainbow”*

Ruth Cann  
Consultant Nurse Older Vulnerable Adults  
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



# Introduction & Why it Matters

- By 2035, two-thirds of adults over 65 will live with multiple conditions
- The population of people 75+ is rising.



# Nursing Older People: Challenges

Emotional Labour and Lack of Support

Poor Communication and Information Sharing

Unpaid Carers Feeling Invisible

Diluted Accountability

Fragmented Care Systems

Limited Recognition of Specialist Roles

Gaps in Education and Training

Barriers to Career Development



# Nursing Older People



Trauma Frailty  
Nurse



Emergency  
Department  
Frailty Nurse



GP Cluster  
Frailty Nurse



Discharge  
Liaison



Rehab Nurses



Safe@ Home



Mental Health  
Services for  
Older People



Care Home  
Nurses



Nurse  
Assessors



Nurses in  
Frailty Units



Gerontology



Memory  
Assessment  
Services

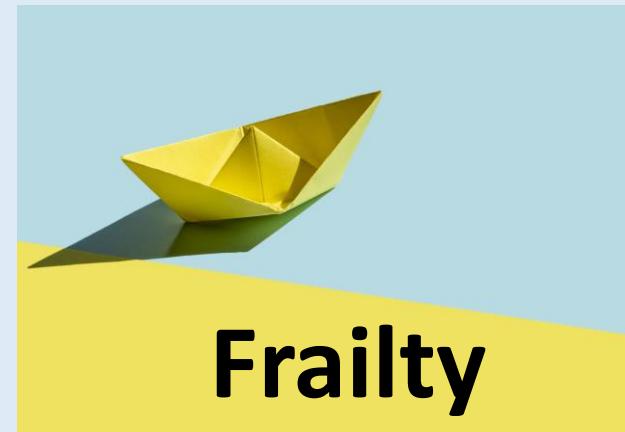
Lack of  
Professional  
Identity &  
Roles defined  
by Services

# Who Are We?



*GERONTOLOGY*

Older People

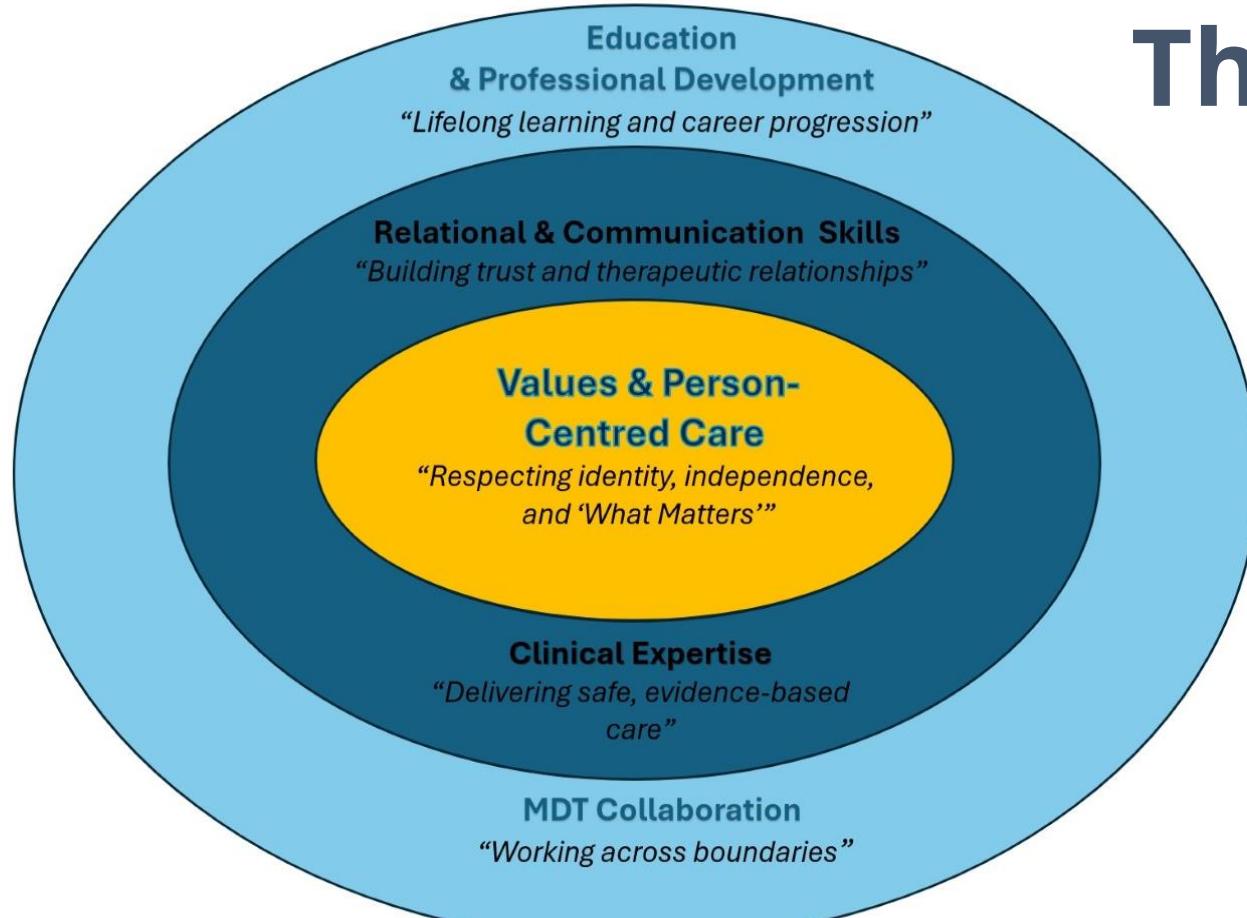




# Vision & Framework

A Framework that recognises, supports and strengthens the role of nurses working with Older People & people with Complex Needs.

The Framework seeks to improve recruitment, retention and professional development opportunities for a historically undervalued area of practice.



# The Framework

## What Matters

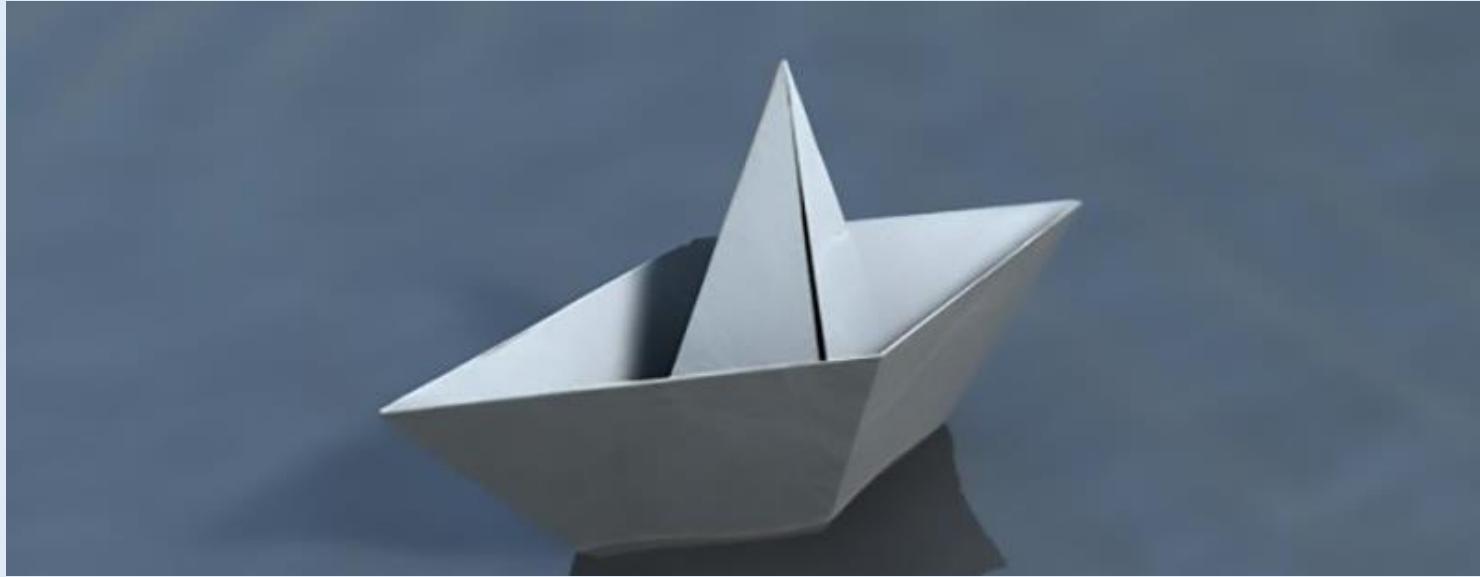
church  
exercise  
pets  
playing bridge  
reading looking smart  
independence  
family

home



# Impact So Far

- Elevated voices of nurses, carers, older people
- Proposed **An All-Wales Steering Group to co-produce an All- Wales development Framework**
- Initiated strategic conversations nationally
- *Positioned Nursing Older People as a specialist area?*



## A Call to Action



# Conclusion

- *"I just want to get home to see my dog."*
- *"I just want a bottle of brown sauce to make my meals on wheels food taste better!"*
- *"I used to think the most important part of my role as a nurse was to keep people safe at all costs.. I now prioritise supporting people to live well on their own terms."*





**Ruth Cann**  
Consultant Nurse Older Vulnerable Adults  
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[ruth.cann@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:ruth.cann@wales.nhs.uk)

