Professor Wendy Wills
Director of the Centre for Research in Primary and Community Care (CRIPACC)

“I continue to be a big believer in networking and always strive to identify commonalities that draw people together. Encouraging early career researchers to reach their potential is something I take great pride in.”

Wendy went to University as a mature student and completed an undergraduate course in Food and Consumer Sciences, which was based on a mixture of both natural and social sciences. Following completion of an ESRC-funded MSc in Social Science Research Methods, Wendy secured further ESRC funding to pursue a PhD in Public Health Nutrition and Social Sciences.

On the back of a series of networking events at conferences, Wendy was contacted by the University of Edinburgh and was invited to apply for a research fellow post on a study examining teenagers’ experience of obesity. During this time, she developed a range of skills, including grant-writing skills. Wendy proceeded to apply for an RCUK post-doctoral Research Fellow post within the Centre for Research in Primary and Community Care the (CRIPACC) at the University of Hertfordshire and soon after, she became a Senior Research Fellow.

Wendy became Reader in 2012 and was invited to join CRIPACC’s strategic management group, where she had the opportunity to formalise her management experiences and lead a specific research unit: Food and Public Health. She was promoted to Professor in 2016, and successfully applied for the role of Director of CRIPACC soon after.

Wendy has been the Athena SWAN Champion for her School since January 2015, and is currently leading the team towards the School’s Silver submission.

More about Professor Wills: www.go.herts.ac.uk/Wendy_Wills