



**Post Title:** NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) Starting Well: Children's Mental Health Research Fellow

**School/department:** School of Psychology

**Hours:** Full time or 0.8 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Ref:** 4752

**Contract:** fixed term for 1 year

**Salary:** starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum, pro rata

**Placed on:** 14 October 2020

**Closing date:** 28 October 2020. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

***This vacancy is only open to those currently employed by the University.***

We are pleased to invite applications for an initially one-year fixed-term NIHR Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Children's Mental Health based at the School of Psychology, University of Sussex. The post is funded by the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Kent Surrey Sussex (ARC KSS). The post offers an excellent opportunity in several aspects of academic life including conducting research in a range of relevant children's mental health topics, developing collaborations with the academic, clinical and third sector workforce, implementing co-production by working in partnership with children, young people and their families and implementing research into practice.

The post holder will provide direct research support to Professor David Fowler in his work as ARC KSS Starting Well: Children's Mental Health Theme Lead and support the ARC KSS Starting Well: Children's Mental Health Implementation Lead alongside key subtheme leads. The post holder will conduct research in line with the Starting Well: Children's Mental Health portfolio of research and will gain a full understanding of the research programme and its goals and priorities.

The role is critical to the overall delivery and success of the ongoing ARC KSS Starting Well: Children's Theme programme of research. The post holder must be highly self-motivated, organised and have considerable interpersonal skills. You need to manage your own time and performance, and that of others, while monitoring the work of the complex network of researchers. You must be strongly proactive, knowledgeable and able to solve complex problems while knowing when to refer a problem up.

The appointed candidate will work in a vibrant children's mental health research environment joining three other Postdoctoral Dementia Research Fellows and several children's mental health PhD students. The appointed candidate will be supported to develop appropriate research interest and projects within the Theme and will be encouraged to publish widely and apply for grants both offered by NIHR or other funders.

### **About the NIHR and ARCs**

The NIHR ARC KSS is one of 15 ARCs across England, part of a £135 million investment by the NIHR to improve the health and care of patients and the public. The mission is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. Working in partnership with the NHS, universities, local government, other research funders, patients and the public, the NIHR delivers and enables world-class research that transforms people's lives, promotes economic growth and advances science. The 15 ARCs work collaboratively to address national research priorities.

For informal enquiries, please contact Professor David Fowler ([d.fowler@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:d.fowler@sussex.ac.uk)) ARC KSS Starting Well: Children's Mental Health Lead.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

## 2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the School of Psychology on the University of Sussex site.

## 3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: ARC Research Fellow I

**Department:**

**Section/Unit/School: School of Psychology**

**Location: University of Sussex**

**Grade:** Postdoctoral research Fellow Grade 7

**Responsible to:** Professor David Fowler, Professor of Clinical Psychology

**Responsible for:** Research activities within Starting Well: Children's Mental Health ARC KSS theme

### CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title:** Research Fellow I ARC

**Grade:** Grade 7

**School:** Psychology

**Location:** University of Sussex

**Responsible to:** Professor David Fowler

<b>Direct reports:</b>	n/a
<b>Key contacts:</b>	Members of research group, University faculty, academics in the field in other institutions including local authorities, NHS Trusts and Third Sector, ARC Children's Mental Health Implementation Lead and other ARC KSS theme leads/post doctorate researchers.
<b>Role Description:</b>	Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

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## **PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to contribute to obtaining research funding and knowledge exchange income as appropriate.
2. To work collaboratively with ARC KSS personnel.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

- 1.1 Contribute to the development of School research strategy and themes. In particular to support the delivery of the ARC KSS Starting Well objectives over the first year particularly in the set up stage liaising with local services and communities interest:
  - i. Identify early risk indicators and trajectories in school functioning as antecedents of subsequent patterns of social disability and mental health symptoms to inform screening strategies by supporting the delivery of DisCOVery research programme.
  - ii. Assess different models of intervention delivery and examine workforce and training implications and economic aspects related to workforce training, resource allocation and commissioning of services by working with HEE, Service Providers and HEI undertake further research into the training implications to build capacity, identify need and identify economic aspects relating to workforce training
  - iii. Undertake formative qualitative studies with users, peers and families. We will undertake new formative studies in specific school, family and youth service settings by:- supporting the delivery of the DisCOVery research programme and other qualitative research programmes identified by the Theme Lead and Implementation Lead; supporting the evaluation of the whole school approach in partnership with schools, commissioners, academics, NHS England and DfE; supporting innovative service models to extend to the reach of

services (eg to deliver interventions in non-conventional community settings such as barbershops).

iv. Support the development of training packages for school-based primary care mental health workers and youth advisors deriving from Social Recovery Therapy and multi-systemic approaches

v. support the development of training packages and resources for working with families and peers

- 1.2 Work with and support Professor David Fowler, ARC KSS Starting Well: CYP Mental Health Lead and Implementation Lead, in developing children's mental health research objectives and proposals engaging with ARC KSS researchers and other academics, and managing ARC related research projects.
- 1.3 Conduct children's mental health research projects individually and/or in collaboration with others.
- 1.4 Assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research, and develop ideas for their application.
- 1.5 Produce high-quality research outputs that have impact in the children's mental health field, for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.6 Engage and manage ARC KSS children's mental health research projects and lead small research projects and/or identified parts of a larger project, including supervising the work of others and managing or monitoring a research budget.
- 1.7 Make presentations at conferences, or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement.
- 1.8 Identify sources of funding and secure or contribute to the process of securing bids.
- 1.9 Identify and secure opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy where permissible.
- 1.10 Actively build internal and external contacts, initially within the ARC KSS family and beyond, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.
- 1.11 Contribute to a relevant national professional body or recognised events.
- 1.12 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development
- 1.13 Conduct risk assessments and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

## **2. Teaching & Student Support**

- 2.1 Supervise postgraduate research students, for example as part of a postgraduate supervisory team.
- 2.2 Assist in the development of student research skills to help build research capacity.

## **3. Contribution to School & University**

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Mentor less experienced colleagues, supporting them in developing their research techniques, and advising on personal development.
- 3.3 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

## **INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- Active engagement in and management of ARC KSS Starting well projects.
- Regular published output of original research at international level (referred journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text-books).
- Other evidence of original research contribution to the field, such as through invited conference contributions, membership of editorial panels etc.
- Evidence of the successful supervision of others within the research group.
- Evidence of contribution to the process of obtaining competitive/peer reviewed research support funding or collaboration in significant research projects with institutions of equivalent standing.
- Involvement in the creation, transfer and use of the results of research through a range of knowledge exchange activities.
- Success in transferring research results to commercial, professional, public sector or other practical use.

#### **4. Person Specification**

##### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to doctoral level or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of significant independent contribution to the design and execution of research.
3. An emerging track record of publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
9. Excellent IT skills.
10. As the post requires work with vulnerable adults diagnosed with clinical dementia, an enhanced DBS check is required.

##### **ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Postgraduate study and work in youth mental health or related area
2. Ability to travel when required across ARC KSS associated sites

##### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
2. Experience of supervising postgraduate research students.

### 3. Knowledge of Kent, Surrey and Sussex mental health services