We are pleased to invite applications for a four-year fixed-term NIHR Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Public Health based at the Department for Primary Care and Public Health, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Brighton. The post is funded by the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Kent Surrey Sussex (ARC KSS) and the appointed Fellow will work within the Public Health Theme. The post offers an excellent opportunity in several aspects of academic life including conducting research in a range of relevant Public Health topics, developing collaborations and enhancing project management skills.

The Public Health Theme focuses on improving health and reducing need among older patients with multiple conditions and younger people at time of transition. It has established a programme of work focussing on care homes and home care in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Theme has a strong focus on Looked After Children, the impact of early family life on health, and the intersection between sexual and mental health in younger people. It has a particular interest in co-producing research to benefit coastal and other remote communities, and marginalised groups within more affluent populations.

The post holder will provide direct research support to Jackie Cassell in her role as ARC KSS Public Health Theme Lead. The post holder will conduct research in line with the portfolio of research and will gain a full understanding of the research programme and its goals, as well as the working of the ARC KSS Public Health Theme.

The role is critical to the overall delivery and success of the ongoing ARC KSS Public Health programme of research described above. The post holder must be highly self-motivated, organised and have considerable interpersonal skills. You will 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 research environment joining other ARC KSS Research Fellows and PhD students in Public Health and Primary Care. The appointed candidate will be supported to develop appropriate research interest and projects within the Public Health 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 Jackie Cassell j.cassell@bsms.ac.uk, Deputy Dean, copying in Ms Kitty Pert K.Pert@sussex.ac.uk (NIHR ARC administrator)

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](#)

[www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs)  [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.*

2. **The School / Division**

Please find further information regarding the Primary Care and Public Health Department of BSMS at:


3. **Job Description**

Job Description for the post of: ARC Research Fellow I

**Department:** Primary Care and Public Health
Section/Unit/School: Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS)

Location: Watson Building, University of Brighton Falmer campus

Grade: Postdoctoral Research Fellow Grade 7 in Public Health

Responsible to: Professor Jackie Cassell, Deputy Dean, based in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health

Responsible for: Research activities within Public Health

CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Fellow in Public Health.

Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7

School: Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Location: Watson Building

Responsible to: Professor Jackie Cassell; Principal Investigator through to Head of School

Direct reports: n/a

Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University and the NIHR ARC Kent Surrey and Sussex.

Role description: 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.

Job description for FPS.

- We are looking for an enthusiastic mixed-methods researcher with a doctoral qualification or equivalent in in public health, or in a related discipline including population science, epidemiology, sociology, demography and/or related subjects.
They should be ready to help to run a portfolio of research under the Public Health theme of the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The Public Health Theme focuses on improving health and reducing need among older patients with multiple conditions and younger people at time of transition. It has established a programme of work focusing on care homes and home care in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which will be further developed. The Theme has a strong focus on Looked After Children, the impact of early family life on health, and the intersection between sexual and mental health in younger people. It has a particular interest in co-producing research to benefit coastal and other remote communities, and marginalised groups within more affluent populations.

- The post-holder should be passionate about working with members of local communities, with marginalised or disadvantaged groups, to deliver sustainable changes to public health.
- They should have excellent communication and team-building skills, be able to join and forge networks across the region, and help to build capacity for the ARC.
- The successful candidate will be an excellent problem solver, with the ability to manage complex projects with multiple stakeholders.
- The post holder will have strong research methods and data analysis skills.

**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications, and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs 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.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 Manage the day-to-day running of research projects relating to the ARC themes, with a particular focus on Public Health and co-production of research.
4.2 Work with the Academic Health Services Network (KSS ARC Implementation lead for Public Health and theme PhD students) to develop the core and sub core themes through research capacity building, development of projects and implementation of evidence into changing practice.

4.3 Be able to work with a wide range of ARC stakeholders including NHS and professional bodies, voluntary and community sector, private sector and most importantly patients and their families living within KSS.

4.4 Help to set up a community programme of research and implementation supporting NHS service users in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (community members, clinicians and practitioners, ARC researchers), under supervision by ARC Theme and Sub-Theme leads.

4.5 Work with ARC leadership team to build capacity within the ARC, for example by contributing to grant writing, supervising students, and engaging with regional and national networks.

4.6 Collaborate with other ARC researchers to help with research design, methods and analysis, ideally both quantitative and qualitative methods.

4.7 Co-produce deliverables within the team to agreed deadlines and objectives.

4.8 Obtain necessary ethical and governance approvals for new projects.

4.9 Manage and analyse data, collected in projects and from large existing databases, effectively and according to data protection and governance protocols.

4.10 Lead writing high impact papers annually.

4.11 Represent Public Health team at overall ARC meetings, either alone or with the team leader.

4.12 Ensure effective communication with all stakeholders across the ARC and in local communities, especially patients, public and community groups.

4.13 Manage social media and public communications about the ARC Public Health themed research.

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

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.
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 engagement in high-quality research activity.

3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Doctoral level qualification or equivalent in public health or a related discipline including population science, epidemiology, sociology, demography and/or related subjects.

2. Evidence of successfully using mixed methods: quantitative data management skills and advanced statistical analysis, qualitative interviews and transcribing audio-recordings plus analyses, and experience in combining the two methods.

3. Evidence of excellent communication skills with a wide range of academic, community and stakeholders including dispersed project teams or consortia.

4. Evidence of engagement with implementation research in public health or social care, with related research skills such as process evaluation, community mapping, stakeholder consultations etc.

5. Evidence of having conducted literature reviews, systematic reviews or evidence synthesis.

6. Excellent project management skills with ability to solve complex problems.

7. Evidence of experience in community engagement with research and co-design, particularly with marginalised or disadvantaged groups.
1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income, for example experience in writing grant applications for research funding as part of a wider team or consortium.

3. Willingness to travel in the Kent Surrey and Sussex region for research meetings, data collection, community engagement and other purposes.