



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow

School/department: Education & Social Work / Dept of Social Work & Social Care

Hours: full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: fixed term until June 2024

Reference: 9142

Salary: starting at £35,333 to £42,155 per annum, pro rata for part time

Placed on: 18 July 2022

Closing date: 11 August 2022 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: 29 August 2022

Expected start date: 14 October 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter

The Department of Social Work and Social Care, within the School of Education and Social Work, seeks applications for a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow post funded by the NIHR. The post is to work on a research study led by Dr David Orr and has a focus on 'Improving collaborative inter-agency systems and practice in self-neglect'.

Government guidance states that self-neglect 'covers a wide range of behaviours' where the person does not fully care for their own health, hygiene or home environment, and this may put them at risk of harm. Self-neglect became a matter for adults safeguarding in 2014 in England, but Safeguarding Adults Reviews have shown that there remain challenges in ensuring that different professionals and organisations work together effectively. This research project is working to understand and address these challenges, and to develop relevant resources, training and guidance for practitioners and Safeguarding Adults Boards.

The research team is working with Safeguarding Adults Boards at five sites around England. The successful applicant will contribute to the project through: interviewing professionals and people with lived experience of self-neglect; facilitating focus groups with practitioners to inform resource development; analysis of the data gathered; knowledge exchange with the research sites; and development of the findings into publications, and usable resources and guidance for practitioners and local policy-makers. While much of the data collection can be done remotely, applicants should expect some travel to sites, and potentially overnight stays.

Please contact Dr. David Orr (d.orr@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

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

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 school/division at <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/esw/>.

3. Job Description

Job Title: Research Fellow in Social Work (1.0 FTE, fixed term for 20.5 months)

Grade: Research Fellow, Grade 7

School: ESW

Location: Essex House

Responsible to: Dr David Orr and Head of School

Direct reports: n/a

Key contacts: Principal Investigator and other members of the research team at Sussex, collaborating Safeguarding Adults Boards.

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.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in collaborative research activity during this research project into self-neglect, including taking a core role in qualitative research with professionals and people with lived experience of self-neglect, contributing to publications and the generation of research impact, and providing general research support to the project.
2. To contribute to School and Departmental activities, where required.

1. Role-specific duties

1.1 To undertake fieldwork which will include national travel and overnight stays, in order to interview professionals and people with lived experience of self-neglect.

1.2 To support focus groups with professionals to inform the development of resources, training and guidance for practitioners and Safeguarding Adults Boards.

1.3 To support impact building online and face to face with the Safeguarding Adults Boards participating in the project, and beyond.

1.4 To analyse and interpret research findings in collaboration with the PI and the project team.

1.5 To communicate and collaborate with the PI and wider project team in developing analysis over time and across components in the research design.

1.6 To provide general research support to the project as directed.

1.7 To ensure adherence to the highest ethical standards for the work.

- 1.8 To support and participate in meetings, including cross-site research team meetings, with Safeguarding Adults Boards, and with the study steering committee and lived experience panel.
- 1.9 To implement systems for secure data management for the project, including arrangements for data sharing within the project team.
- 1.10 To contribute to high-quality research outputs for publication and dissemination of the methodological and substantive findings of the research.
- 1.11 To build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.12 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Contribution to School & University

- 2.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 2.2 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.

3. Decision making and Problem Solving

The role offers some complex challenges to the Research Fellow which will require proactive and independent work. The successful candidate will need to conduct sensitive interviews with people with lived experience of self-neglect, who may have complex and contested histories of professional intervention. They will be interviewing busy professionals at all career stages and need to be able to understand and work with the agendas that influence the participants. As detailed in relation to key responsibilities, this work will involve decision-making and problem solving through the research process, from methodological development to analysis and reporting.

To meet these responsibilities, the post holder must be able to work individually on their own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team, maintaining clear communication and lines of decision-making with the PI. They must be able to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving and have the ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

4. Major deliverables, projects, processes, responsibility areas, etc.

The Research Fellow will primarily contribute to completing fieldwork and research analysis, developing and disseminating research outputs and practice resources, and generating and capturing impact from the findings.

In addition, the fellow will be expected to participate as a full member of the research team, supporting and contributing to team meetings and undertaking other tasks related to the project as appropriate.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1. Successful data collection and analysis, consistent with the aims and research themes of this project.
2. Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
3. Evidence of writing for academic or professional publications.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The following qualifications, knowledge, experience, skills and competencies are required:

Essential criteria

1. A PhD in a relevant social science subject, or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality and complex research activity relating to health and social care provision for people with complex needs.
3. Expertise in qualitative methodologies.
4. Excellent oral and written presentation skills, including in on-line media, and for academic and public audiences.
5. Proven ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
6. Proven ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
8. Proven ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
9. Excellent IT skills.

Essential role-specific criteria

1. Understanding of self-neglect and the factors that can contribute to it.
2. General understanding of health, social care and allied services and systems for adults receiving care, support and/or safeguarding.
3. Experience of qualitative research with groups with health or social care-related care and support needs.
4. Able to engage and communicate effectively with: adults at risk; carers; academic colleagues; health, social care and allied professionals; and external audiences.
5. Experience of presenting research at academic and/or practitioner conferences.

Desirable criteria

1. Knowledge of the challenges, benefits and models of interprofessional and inter-agency collaboration.
2. Knowledge of qualitative analysis methods.

3. Understanding of realist approaches to social science research.
4. Experience of initiating, developing or negotiating links with external bodies such as local authority service providers and non-governmental organisations.
5. Skills in public engagement through online media.
6. Experience of high-quality writing for external audiences, including academic publication, research briefings or other relevant outputs.

SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES:

- a) Able to undertake travel for national fieldwork in England including overnight stays.
- b) Appointment depends on satisfactorily applying for and obtaining an NHS Research Passport.