

## **RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT LEAD**

**Current salary plus honorarium of £5,000 per annum**

**2 years**

**Up to 2.5 days a week**

Building on the success of the Research Champion posts and wanting to maintain the momentum, West Midlands ADASS are ready to move to the next stage in its research journey. We are looking to second a Research Engagement Lead for up to two and a half days per week for a period of two years. You will need to have agreement from your authority to submit an application.

The post will work across the 14 local authorities in the West Midlands region and the related professional networks.

The key activities will be as follows:

- Establish, develop and lead 'communities of practice' to engage practitioners in research discussions
- Encourage and support practitioners to undertake research studies and engage in research, and build a pool of research ready practitioners
- Support research ready practitioners to collaborate with academics to commence two research studies to meet regional research priorities
- Organise and deliver local and regional events relating to engagement in research and opportunities to develop research skills and career routes
- Contribute to identifying of research priorities for the region and support bids for external research funding in collaboration with WM ADASS and local Universities

The ideal candidate for this role will have the following experience:

- be a qualified Social Worker, Occupational Therapist or Social Care Nurse with a relevant professional qualification
- have been involved with supporting, or undertaking social care research or evaluation projects
- conducted evaluations and analysis of social care and/or health interventions
- facilitated peer support networks involving social care practitioners

Please refer to the attached person specification for further information

Please refer to the attached person specification for further information on the knowledge, skills and abilities required for this opportunity.

We envisage the postholder being able to shape the role.

To apply we require your CV and an 'expression of interest' (no more than two pages) addressing the person specification and saying why you would like to undertake the post, what you would bring, and what you hope to achieve during the two years. Send your application to [shelley.madley@wm-adass.org.uk](mailto:shelley.madley@wm-adass.org.uk) by Friday 25 October 2024. It is proposed that virtual interviews will take place during November 2024.

For more information or an informal discussion, please contact Andrew Errington [andrew.errington@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.errington@coventry.gov.uk) or Mark Godfrey [mark.godfrey@wm-dass.org.uk](mailto:mark.godfrey@wm-dass.org.uk)

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Purpose of the Job:**

- This position represents an exciting two-year secondment opportunity through collaboration between WM ADASS and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), to support the continuation of building a sustainable research culture in the West Midlands.
- The postholder will be employed by their Council and in their current practitioner role and seconded for up to 2.5 days a week to be a 'research engagement lead'.
- The postholder will work across the West Midlands region.
- The work will involve working closely with Principal Social Workers, Principal Occupational Therapists and practitioners in adult social care, raising the profile of research, encouraging practitioners to engage in research activity and become research ready to undertake research.
- There will be significant scope to be involved to identify regional priorities, support the development of research bids and contribute to culture and practice change within social care.

### **The project aims to:**

1. Build research capacity amongst practitioners and develop a positive culture of research in practice across the adult social care workforce through communities of practice.
2. Implement effective partnership working and co-production of research ideas within adult social care.
3. Develop sustainable and effective models of knowledge sharing and co-production and share this with others locally, regionally, and nationally.
4. Support with identification of strategic research priorities across adult social care, including knowledge and training gaps for social care staff.
5. Contribute to the evidence base around locally relevant, co-produced social care interventions.

**Main duties and responsibilities:**

- To lead on the establishment, development and embedding of communities of practice and other research forums to encourage and support practitioners to actively engage in learning from research
- To raise awareness, encourage and support practitioners to undertake research studies and engage in research, and build a pool of research ready practitioners
- To work closely with the Research Fellow, Research Associate, WM ADASS, Principal Social Workers and practitioners to continue to develop a research culture within Adult Social Care.
- To work closely with the Research Fellow, Research Associate, experts by experience and WM ADASS to identify research priorities for the region and support bids for research funding
- To engage with the regional Co-Production Advisory Group, supported by WM ADASS in research and associated activities.
- To work with the Research Fellow, research ready practitioners and academics to commence two research studies to meet the identified regional research priorities
- To work with the Research Associate and Principal Social Workers to deliver local and regional events
- To work with the WM ADASS to continue to develop and implement engaging and informative communications to raise the profile of social care research, and excite and engage staff and partners

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

Applicants should describe in their 'expression of interest' how they meet the following:

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| <b>QUALIFICATIONS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Relevant professional qualification in social work, occupational therapy or nursing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>EXPERIENCE:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proven experience of developing collaborative relationships with adult social care practitioners, and people who are in receipt of care and support including unpaid carers and experts by experience</li> <li>• Three years or more experience as a Qualified Social Worker, Occupational Therapist or Nurse</li> <li>• Experience of being involved with, supporting or undertaking social care research or evaluation projects</li> <li>• Experience in conducting evaluations and analysis of social care and/or health interventions</li> <li>• Facilitating peer support networks with social care practitioners</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>SKILLS AND ABILITIES:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive, person-centred and energetic</li> <li>• Ability to think creatively</li> <li>• Willingness to learn participatory and co-production approaches to research</li> <li>• Willingness to learn new research methods and skills with support and training</li> <li>• Professionally curious with an ability to work independently and as part of a team</li> <li>• Highly developed interpersonal, presentation and communication skills</li> <li>• Strong Information Technology, data analysis skills and the ability to interpret how findings can be applied in practice</li> <li>• Ability to build and develop effective working relationships across a wide range of internal and external partners</li> <li>• Ability to prioritise, forward plan and work effectively on own initiative.</li> <li>• Ability to manage and deliver complex areas of work.</li> <li>• Ability to take complex decisions which will have a wider impact.</li> <li>• Ability to resolve complex problems and sensitive issues.</li> <li>• Project Management Skills</li> <li>• IT skills and competence in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Teams</li> <li>• Willingness to learn about and use social media platforms to engage with various audiences</li> <li>• Ability to lead others and get things done</li> </ul> |

**KNOWLEDGE:**

- Knowledge of the adult social care landscape and the challenges it faces
- Knowledge of a variety of research methods and their application.
- Knowledge of implementation methods and their application, including roll-out and scaling-up of trial/pilot interventions
- An understanding of health and social care key policies, legislation and statutory guidance
- Working knowledge of legislation relating to Equal Opportunities and awareness of equality and diversity policies, procedures and legislation
- Understanding of internal policy and external contexts and influences
- Compliance with information governance, data protection, record retention and confidentiality issues

**BEHAVIOURS:**

- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Courageous
- Determination