

Local Authority Research Practitioner

Grade 10

About the Service

The health and care vision is Inspiring healthy independent living, and is led by the Director of Health and Care (DPH).

The structure for Health and Care provides a clear focus on 3 defined areas of work:

- Public Health and Prevention
- Adult Social Work and Safeguarding
- Care Commissioning

This role sits within the public health and prevention team but will be expected to work closely with, and across, all areas of the health and care directorate.

Health and Care have four strategic objectives for 2021-26. These are:

- 1) Promote good health and independence, and encourage and enable people to take personal responsibility for maintaining their well-being
- 2) Ensure effective and efficient assessment of needs that offers fair access to services
- 3) Maintain a market for care and support that offers services at an affordable price
- 4) Ensure best use of resources, people, data and technology

About the Role

The overarching purpose of the Local Authority Research Practitioner (LARP) role is to reduce health inequalities across Staffordshire by embedding a culture of research, to ensure local decision-making on public health and the wider determinants of health is grounded in robust evidence.

To achieve this aim, the postholder will work with colleagues to foster the development and integration of equity-sensitive research skills, processes, capacity, and infrastructure throughout the team.

Reporting Relationships

Responsible to: Consultant in Public Health

Responsible for: N/A

Key Accountabilities:

1. Build collaborative working relationships with colleagues across the County Council, local stakeholders and wider academic networks, to promote the use of equity-sensitive research.
2. Connect into existing regional and national research and academic networks to integrate the county council into these networks and foster collaborative opportunities.
3. Promote, support and contribute to the activity of the [NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health \(SCPH\)](#) to integrate the County Council into these networks and foster collaborative opportunities.
4. Work closely with council colleagues and wider stakeholders including the ICB and VCFS partners, to maximise potential for setting up research studies.
5. Conduct an audit of research and evaluation skills and capacity across the Public Health Team to identify the current level and scope of capacity and capability, including barriers to engaging with

research and develop strategies to overcome these barriers.

6. Provide guidance and support for colleagues looking to evaluate their work and engage in research, through networking and sharing knowledge and best practice alongside current and relevant legislation/guidance to enhance research participation.
7. Create and deliver training for colleagues on the importance of research, how to source and use research evidence to inform decision-making, and how to identify relevant research gaps to improve research literacy and application.
8. Contribute to the sharing of best practice across other Local Authorities as part of a LARP network to foster inter-authority collaboration and knowledge exchange.
9. Conduct awareness-raising activities across the county council, including senior-level networking, to influence senior leaders of the importance of research in decision-making.
10. Identify and bid for external funding sources to take forward research activities within the county council.
11. Undertake regular reporting to the SCPH (Newcastle University and partners) to support the evaluation of the LARP roles and demonstrate impact on research capacity and capability in Local Authorities.

Person Specification

Qualifications/Professional membership

- First degree or equivalent in a relevant subject (i.e. research) and experience of conducting research (ideally on the wider determinants of health)

Knowledge and Experience

- Experience of working autonomously, in complex environments and reporting structures, delivering a range of targets and work plans simultaneously.
- Demonstrable experience of working within, or with, academic or research institutions or networks.
- Experience of working with partners across a local system (e.g., Universities, the Voluntary and Community Sector and other statutory organisations such as the Police).
- Experience of preparing applications for external funding.
- Experience of managing own workload.
- Evidence of contributions to published scientific work.
- Experience of project management
- Demonstrable knowledge of research terminology and the ability to translate research language and findings for a range of audiences.
- Demonstrable knowledge of a wide range of applicable research methods, including approaches to identifying and critically appraising evidence and its application and planning and evaluating interventions and governance processes.
- Understanding of the different qualitative and quantitative sources of data and methods that can be used for measuring, analysing and interpreting health and wellbeing, needs and outcomes.
- Knowledge of how Local Authorities are structured and operate.
- Understanding of evaluation methods and audit.

Skills

- Organisational skills and ability to manage multiple projects at various stages of development with various deadlines.
- Self-disciplined and able to work independently, manage own workload and use own initiative without close supervision
- Interpersonal skills to communicate and build strong relationships with people from different backgrounds and experiences.
- Highly effective personal, written, and presentational skills to present creative thoughts and ideas verbally and in writing to others in a simple and engaging way.

- Willingness to learn from others as well as help others learn.
- Motivated and enthusiastic with a 'can-do' attitude.
- Skills in resolving complex problems and managing conflicting issues.
- Knowledge and understanding of appropriate confidentiality policies and procedures.
- Understanding of wider determinants and public health interventions.
- Standard keyboard and IT skills particularly in the use of web applications and Google / MS Office applications.

This post is designated as a Casual Car user

The content of this Job Description and Person Specification will be reviewed on a regular basis.