Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow - Heart Failure/Palliative Care NiHR Realist Evaluation
School/Department: School of Nursing and Midwifery
Reference: 24/112155
Closing Date: Monday 16 September 2024
Salary: £39,922 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 3 October 2024
Duration: 1 January 2025 - 31 December 2027 (36 Months)

JOB PURPOSE:

This National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Service and Delivery Services (HS&DR) project ultimately aims to understand how to set up, sustain, and embed integrated palliative care and heart failure services across the NHS. The study will use a co-design and realist evaluation approach to 1. Evaluate existing integrated palliative care and heart failure services in NHS organisations to understand how they have been set up, sustained, and embedded in routine practice; 2. Use these data to confirm, refute or refine our existing programme theory regarding this process to co-produce a detailed 'how to' guidance for setting up, sustaining, and embedding integrated services across the NHS; and 3. Develop a community of practice to support those who wish to set up, sustain and embed integrated heart failure and palliative care services.

The role requires a post-doctoral research fellow to work with Professor Joanne Reid and Dr Tracey McConnell, and colleagues at Queen's University Belfast supported by collaborators in England, Wales and Scotland. The role requires the successful candidate to undertake co-design and realist evaluation across five NHS Sites (England x 2, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (NI)) with support from other members of the team; conducting observations, documentary analysis, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, developing a community of practice and producing the research outputs and wider dissemination (e.g. presentations, project synopsis and journal articles). This is an excellent opportunity for a post-doctoral health services researcher or social scientist with realist/qualitative methods experience, and a knowledge of palliative care and/or heart failure models or theories and literature/practice, to work within an experienced national team.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Take a significant role in working with the information specialist to design the literature searching and searching and extracting data; writing up the synthesis and producing the research outputs including the final report;
2. Take a significant role in co-ordinating, implementing, evaluating and disseminating the research project;
3. Understand and follow RAMESES guidelines for reporting;
4. Undertake further training and development on realist synthesis methods as required;
5. Take responsibility for overall project management and close liaison with all members of the wider team at Queen's University Belfast and University of Oxford;
6. Work closely with the wider project team to ensure research rigour and consistency in approaches to data extraction, analysis and synthesis;
7. Be responsible for overseeing the literature searching and data extraction;
8. Contribute to overall data analysis, leading on the realist synthesis;
9. Work with research team colleagues on report-writing/disseminating findings (including oral/conference presentations) and producing resources to disseminate the work widely;
10. Plan and manage their own research activity in collaboration with others;
11. To carry out administrative tasks associated with the project (e.g. organisation of project meetings and producing/circulating associated documentation);
12. To design and implement procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting against project milestones;
13. Be committed to her/his own personal career development;

14. Carry out any other reasonable duty commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post;
15. Contribute to wider school activity by actively participating in Chronic Illness and Palliative Care Research Group meetings relevant to the work undertaken.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:
1. Undergraduate honours or postgraduate degree in a relevant social science or healthcare discipline.
2. Have, or be about to obtain* a PhD in a relevant social science or healthcare discipline such as nursing.
   (must be obtained within 3 months of the closing date of the post)
3. Significant, relevant research experience.
4. Experience of realist methodology.
5. Experience of co-design methods.
6. Ability to undertake qualitative research (e.g., interviews and focus groups) to a high standard and lead on data collection, analysis/triangulation of data and write up.
7. Ability to engage in deep critical thinking to develop theoretical insights, and to locate relevant mid-range theories.
8. Proven ability to manage a multi-site research project across the UK.
9. Evidence of good organisational and administrative skills.
10. Ability to communicate with a range of disciplines/professions.
11. Proven experience of PPIE in research projects.
12. Experience of interviewing people from underserved groups, and those with life limiting conditions.
13. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
14. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
15. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
16. Ability to assess and organise resources.
17. Ability and willingness to travel to data collection sites across the UK.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:
1. Knowledge of relevant palliative care and/or heart failure literature/practice and theories, and proven interest in the topic.
2. Realist methodology publications.
3. Co-design publications.
4. Experience of ethnography and documentary analysis.
5. Experience of working in a research team (including remotely).
6. Experience of writing research reports and papers.
7. Excellent record of publication in health service-related journals.
8. Demonstrable experience of presenting research at conferences to a wide variety of audiences.
9. Highly self-motivated and hardworking.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Informal Enquiries to Dr Carolyn Blair - c.blair@qub.ac.uk