



**Reference Number: 003967**

**Post: Research Associate – Centre For Public Policy And Health**

**Department: School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health**

**Contract Type: Part Time, Fixed Term**

**Grade: Grade 7 (£32,004 - £38,183)**

The successful candidate will be expected to play a key role on a new Department of Health funded research project “Improving choices for care: a strategic research initiative on implementation of the care act 2014” alongside Professor David Hunter and Professor Bub Hudson at Durham University. The project is being undertaken collaboratively with Professor Stephen Peckham at the University of Kent. The project will evaluate how national support programmes impact on local implementation of the Care Act 2014 and identify those elements that supported successful implementation and explore how they can be replicated for other major government policy programmes and initiatives. This is one of a number of projects that the Department of Health has commissioned to evaluate the implementation of the Act.

The post will involve fieldwork and analysis of data from six local authority case study sites across England, and will require skills in qualitative research methods. It will also involve preparing, and contributing to, papers for publication in peer reviewed journals and assisting with planning a series of events and coordinating other dissemination activities. In addition the successful candidates will work with a specialist external advisory group established for the project. The post will appeal to applicants interested in public policy and health, policy implementation, health and social care, health inequalities, policy evaluation, and the public health role of local authorities. This is a complex project requiring effective project management skills and an ability to work across disciplines and organisations. Working as part of a team, engaging with a wide range of academic and policy partners, and managing tight deadlines are key requirements for this post. Travelling, including some overnight travel, will be involved in order to carry out research in the case study sites.

Please note this post will be extended be a 24 month post rather than 21 month post subject to funding.

### **Key responsibilities**

- Ensure the successful completion of the improving choices research project
- Literature review and documentary analysis
- Planning and managing fieldwork in case study sites across England
- Conducting interviews, focus groups and observations
- Analysing qualitative data
- Writing and presenting research papers
- Coordination and administration of research-related activities, including project team meetings, external advisory group meetings and data collection
- Liaison with internal and external team members as needed
- Dissemination of project findings
- Contribution to project outputs within agreed timescales, including the final report
- Other tasks as directed by the project lead.

Responsible to: David Hunter, Professor of Health Policy and Management, Centre for Public Policy and Health, School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health, Durham University ([www.dur.ac.uk/public.health](http://www.dur.ac.uk/public.health)).

### **Internal & External Relationships**

Internal: Academic and administrative colleagues; Head of School; Internal Durham departments/schools.

External: Local and national health and social care agencies; research funders; publishers and journals; potential students; conference organisers; professional bodies.

### **Person Specification**

#### **Qualifications**

Undergraduate degree of at least 2:1 standard (Essential)

Advanced research methods training as part of an undergraduate or postgraduate programme (Essential)

Postgraduate research qualification in a relevant subject area (Essential)

## **Experience**

- Literature reviewing (Essential)
- Qualitative and quantitative research methods (Essential)
- Delivering tasks to deadlines (Essential)
- Project management (Essential)
- Ability to write research papers for reputable journals and to prepare research presentations at conferences (Essential)
- Multi-disciplinary team working (Desirable)
- Organisation of events and meetings (Desirable)
- Survey design and administration (Desirable)
- Undertaking projects through to completion (Desirable)

## **Special Knowledge**

- Public health/health promotion (Desirable)
- Health and social care (Desirable)
- Familiarity with local government structures (Desirable)

## **Skills and Competencies**

- Well-developed organisational skills (Essential)
- Good written communication (Essential)
- Good oral communication and ability to liaise with a range of stakeholders (Essential)
- Ability to work independently (Essential)
- Ability to work in a team (Essential)
- Delivering to deadlines (Essential)
- Flexible approach (Essential)
- Willingness to learn new skills and methods (Essential)
- Willingness to travel regionally and within England (Essential)

## **Additional Information**

Applications are also particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in the University.

## **Durham University**

The University was founded in 1832, and in 1908 incorporated within a federal structure King's College Newcastle, that was later to become the University of Newcastle. In 1963 the Universities of Durham and Newcastle Act provided for the separate establishment of the two universities.

The University of Durham is one of the UK's leading universities. We have 11,742 undergraduate students and 3,580 postgraduate students.

Our research and teaching covers a broad spectrum of academic disciplines. We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching, as confirmed by national assessments.

Durham is consistently classed within the top 5 UK universities and is one of only 10 UK universities in the Times Higher Education world rankings.

## **Queen's Campus, Stockton**

A new campus of the University was opened in 1992 twenty five miles south of Durham at Thornaby, Stockton on Tees, in purpose-built accommodation of very high quality, as a key component in the region's economic development strategy with the general aim of making the resources of Durham University more widely available to the region.

The Queen's Campus at Stockton, both a teaching and residential site, is a 21st Century environment. The Campus has excellent facilities together with up to date computer technology and state-of-the-art laboratories. The Wolfson Research Institute for Health and Wellbeing accommodates 10 multi-disciplinary Research Centres focusing on Health and the Environment and includes the regional GP Registrar Scheme.

## **School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health**

The roots of Medicine at Durham go back to even before the establishment of the University 175 years ago. The reinstatement of undergraduate medical training in 2001 heralded a new, innovative curriculum in partnership with Newcastle Medical School. Students experience the real world of clinical medicine from the start and our case-led approach emphasises the environment within which the graduating doctor will practice. Backed by modern teaching methods and new technologies, the programme has held a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) award and the student experience is more individualised because of relatively smaller numbers.

Alongside this, the School has an international research programme with multimillion pound awards from the NHS, NIHR and other internationally recognised bodies. Much of the research is geared to practical issues: translating research into high quality patient care, finding means of detecting disorders earlier and enabling the best decisions for patient care. The medical humanities and health policy are important strands in our research and much of our work is necessarily conducted within an environment of social deprivation and inequalities. Medical Education research is an important component of our integrated research programmes with an emphasis on both undergraduate and postgraduate sectors more recently in relation to clinicians in the NHS.

The School's postgraduate programmes offer a variety of MSc topics in health which can be tailored to suit CPD for the professional. We have a strong track record in PhDs and MDs with many researchers having gone on to influence medical management nationally and internationally.

We aim to equip the student for lifelong learning against a background of ever evolving knowledge and health systems. For many, learning and teaching at Durham also creates a lifelong sense of belonging.

The School enjoys a collaborative relationship with the Wolfson Research Institute for Health and Wellbeing (WRI). WRI research fellows undertake cutting edge research on medicine, health and the wellbeing of people and places, with a special interest in the people of the North East of England. They contribute to the teaching of the taught Masters courses, play a key role in strengthening academic and practitioner links across the region, and contribute to policy formation and implementation within the University, across the region and beyond.