

**Part-time placement opportunity to gain experience working at the interface of health and care services and research on a project aimed at improving the safe sharing of data for population health service work and research.**

Applications are invited for this part-time placement opportunity to work with researchers from the University of Cambridge as well as the regional East of England population health management programme on a project aimed at improving the safe sharing of data for population health service work and research.

**Closing date: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 5pm**

**Time period:** as soon as possible to end March 2024, with the possibility of extension if circumstances allow.

**What is the background to the placement?** To improve the health of the population, we need access to high quality data for research and service work in the health and care sector. There have been significant exciting developments in data and intelligence to support innovative work for population health purposes. Data protection legislation and information governance guidance for sharing data for these purposes is however complex and rapidly evolving. It is also essential that patients and the wider public are supportive of the use of their information for population health purposes and trust the process. An NIHR ARC Population Health Data Panel Task and Finish Group has developed a report on enabling safe and effective information sharing for health and care research to explore this (appended).

**What will the placement involve?** The placement will offer the opportunity to the individual to work as part of a project team to progress some of the recommendations of the NIHR ARC Population Health Data Panel Task and Finish Group report. This will include:

- Working with the Regional Information Governance Network and university data protection leads to improve and streamline communication channels.
- Working with ICS information governance leads and other partners to collate and analyse information gathered from ICS-led programmes of public engagement and communications on the use of data for population health purposes to provide a regional overview.
- Supporting work within the region to scope a plan for 2024 for regional engagement with the public on the use of data for population health purposes through service work and research.

**Why should I apply for the placement?** The placement offers an excellent opportunity to work at the interface of health and care services and academia. You will work directly with leading researchers at the University of Cambridge and the University of Hertfordshire as well as service based regional leads with expertise in public health, population health management and information governance. It is anticipated that this placement will provide you with experience of approaches to public engagement on the use of data for population health purposes, how this informs public communication development, and enhanced knowledge of the governance of data sharing for research. Working as part of the project team, you will make an important contribution to efforts to improve the appropriate sharing of data to improve health.

**As an employer, what benefits will the placement bring?** The aim of the project is to improve and streamline processes around data sharing for population purposes including research. By releasing a member of your staff to work on the project, they will be able to support the outputs being relevant and of use in your organisation. The placement will enable your employee to gain valuable knowledge and experience in research methods and approaches and build links with the academic sector, with an opportunity to forge links for ongoing collaboration beyond the time period of the project. They will also gain knowledge in the requirements and approaches to public engagement on the use of data for population health purposes and enhanced knowledge of the governance of data sharing for service work and research.

**What is the project team hoping to get from the placement?** We are keen to develop projects that foster and develop service-academic collaborations for health gain. The project team comprises both researchers and service-based personnel. We want you to bring your experience from your own service or research setting but also help us gain insight from others in other settings. We want this project to be relevant and useful to frontline service staff and for researchers and hope that you will help us to achieve this.

**How is the project funded?** The project is co-funded by the East of England NIHR Applied Research Collaboration and NHS England via the regional Population Health Management Programme. A small amount of funding is available to cover release of the staff member to the equivalent of NHS Band 7 for up to two days per week to the end of March 2024. Staff of more senior grades are welcome to apply but any placement can only be reimbursed to the limits of the available funding.

**Who can apply?** The placement is offered as a part-time opportunity to staff currently working in health and care public sector organisations or researchers working in academic organisations within the East of England. Applications from other organisations, such as voluntary sector organisations, which are recognised partners within one of the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) in the East of England will also be considered. All applicants will need to have secured permission from their employer organisation.

**What kind of person are we looking for?** The key requirement is someone who is enthusiastic and keen to take on this exciting opportunity. You do not have to have had previous research experience or expert knowledge of public engagement approaches but should be open to new ideas and approaches. You could be from a range of different professional backgrounds including for example, a clinician, an analyst, a public engagement officer, a manager or a researcher. You might work in a hospital, in general practice, in local government, in another health and care setting or in a research setting. It is anticipated that the majority of the placement will be delivered through remote working or on site at locations in the employer organisation locality of the successful candidate.

**How do I find out more about it?** For more information or to arrange an informal discussion please email Helen Green [h.green11@nhs.net](mailto:h.green11@nhs.net)

**How do I apply?** Please send a CV and covering letter to Katia Asfalto [ka561@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ka561@medschl.cam.ac.uk) by Friday 1st December. Interviews are expected to take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

As an applicant for this placement you will:

- Either be employed within the East of England health and care system in a public sector organisation or be a researcher working in an academic organisation within the East of England
- have secured permission from your employer organisation to undertake the placement
- be able to work on the project for one day a week starting as soon as possible to the end of March 2023
- have an enthusiasm to learn
- have excellent written and oral communication skills and willingness to share your experience of the placement with others
- be prepared to question and adopt a critical approach
- have good organisational skills