



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Research Fellow in Applied Health Research  
Faculty of Medicine and Health**



**Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 – £38,833 p.a. pro rata)**

**Reference: MHHEA1108**

**60% of Full Time Equivalent**

**Closing Date: 13 December 2017**

**Fixed term until 30 June 2019**

## Faculty of Medicine and Health

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in applied health research? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

An opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic Research Fellow to work in the School of Healthcare on an exciting and novel health services research study funded by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Services & Delivery Research programme.

### The Project

Incidents involving violence and aggression are a frequent occurrence in adult mental health inpatient settings. They are managed by use of restrictive interventions such as restraint, seclusion, injection of sedating drugs and constant observation. Use of these interventions carries significant risks, including physical and psychological harms to both patients and staff. Interventions are costly in terms of staff sickness and litigation as well as extra staffing resources required to implement them. As such, numerous staff training programmes have been developed to try to reduce the use of restrictive interventions. These seek to modify practice using a variety of behaviour change techniques (BCTs). Although some programmes have been evaluated, research into their effectiveness is hampered by a lack of attention to their specific components. Over recent years the MRC has supported work to develop a taxonomy of BCTs to standardise and improve the reporting of such non-pharmacological interventions. It provides a common language with which to specify the content and mechanisms by which behaviour is changed. The aim of this study is to identify effective components of programmes that seek to reduce restrictive interventions in adult mental health inpatient settings using the BCT taxonomy.

The study objectives are to:

- i) Provide an overview of programmes aimed at reducing restrictive interventions;
- ii) Classify components of those programmes implemented in adult mental health inpatient settings in terms of behaviour change techniques and determine their frequency of use;
- iii) Explore the evidence of effectiveness by examining behaviour change techniques and programme outcomes;





iv) Identify and prioritise behaviour change techniques showing most promise of effectiveness and that require testing in future high quality evaluations and that require testing in future high quality evaluations.

The project team is multidisciplinary including investigators with health services, clinical, psychology, and information management expertise.

### **What does the role entail?**

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Working with, and in support of, the Principal Investigator to ensure the project is meeting its planned milestones, is producing meaningful outputs, and to predict and plan any changes that warrant requests to changes in protocol, funding or time;
- Assisting with the development and implementation of search strategies to identify studies seeking to reduce coercive practices in mental health care;
- Screening electronic records for potentially eligible studies;
- Obtaining papers and reports of eligible studies;
- Complete training on coding with the BCT Taxonomy;
- Coding of intervention materials using the BCT Taxonomy;
- Data extraction and quality assessment of eligible studies;
- Analysis of intervention results and interpreting the overall findings;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output;
- Liaising with study team members and providing regular feedback to the research team regarding the progress of the data collection and analysis;
- Liaising with, and acting as a point of contact for, the Study Steering Committee members and our Lay Advisory Group;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development;
- Contributing to the development of proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues where appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.



## What will you bring to the role?

As Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD or equivalent experience in a subject area relating to health services research/applied health research;
- A strong background in applied health research and demonstrate experience of conducting reviews supported by reference management software;
- Understanding of mental health care/restrictive interventions and/or previous experience of BCT Taxonomies;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Demonstrable attention to detail;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- A proven ability to publish in peer-reviewed journals as first author;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and as part of a multidisciplinary team;
- A pro-active approach and a 'can do' attitude;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- A track record of successful, high quality, publications in applied health research;
- A willingness to undertake training on BCT Taxonomies;
- Familiarity with statistical software and analysis.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**Dr Kathryn Berzins**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 1436

Email: [k.m.berzins@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:k.m.berzins@leeds.ac.uk)



## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#).

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

Find out more about our [School of Healthcare](#).

Find out more about our [Research](#).

You will report to Professor John Baker, Chair of Mental Health Nursing.

### Working at Leeds

You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live in the Leeds area in our [Working at Leeds](#) information.

### Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found in our [Accessibility](#) information or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## Criminal record information

### Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position, however, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records information](#).

