



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

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



**Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.) A maximum salary of £36,914 p.a can be offered due to funding restrictions.**

**Reference: MHHEA1145**

**Closing date: 04 October 2019**

**Fixed-term for 15 months (01 January 2020 – 31 March 2021)**



## 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**

Evidence shows there are large numbers of safety issues on acute mental health wards, frequently involving violence and self-harm, associated with increased costs, physical and psychological harm. Safety data is currently only collected retrospectively and very little is collected from the service user perspective. This study aims to co-design with service users and staff a technological intervention that collects data about the perception of safety from service users, in order to support staff to anticipate and avoid developing incidents.

The project has three phases and uses different methods during each phase. Phase 1 uses a co-design approach to developing the intervention, supported by an 'environmental scan' consisting of a scoping review and the collection and qualitative analysis of interview data. Phase 2 will test and refine the intervention, examine available NHS data, and conduct further qualitative interviews. Phase 3 will be a mixed-methods process evaluation. A focused ethnography will explore how staff communicate and use safety data supported by interviews with service users and staff to further understand feasibility and acceptability. We will simultaneously collect routine data including incidents, NHS mental health safety thermometer, workforce and ward occupancy. Measures of safety culture and ward atmosphere will be completed pre and post intervention. The synthesis of these data will assess the impact of the intervention on outcome measures; enhanced understanding of feasibility and acceptability and result in a draft trial protocol.

To achieve these aims, we have the following objectives:

- 1) to co-design with service users and staff an intervention that will allow real-time monitoring of safety on acute mental healthwards;
- 2) to explore the feasibility and acceptability of capturing real-time feedback from service users about safety;
- 3) to explore how staff use this information when reported during daily handovers (or other mechanism);
- 4) to explore how the resulting data is related to existing quality and safety metrics;
- 5) to explore how these data can be used longitudinally to promote safety;



6) to use the data collected within the study to directly inform the optimal design of future trials.

### **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 improve patient safety in mental health care;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including, where appropriate preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication in leading international journals, independently writing reports 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 and/or previous experience of developing digital interventions and/or patient safety.
- 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.
- Familiarity with statistical software and analysis and/or qualitative data 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).

### **Security checks**

Appointment to this post will be subject to appropriate security checks being carried out with your permission by a third party company.

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975**

This post requires a standard criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

Any offer of appointment will be: subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records information](#).

