

Lead Public Health Researcher

Salary Range: £58,184-£67,886

Grade: Level 5 Zone 2

Location: 5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG

Reports to: Head of Public Health Intelligence

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About the role

This role is part funded by the National Institute for Health Research's Research Support Service (NIHR RSS) Specialist Centre for Public Health and will contribute actively to their work. The post-holder will be a senior member of Camden Council's Public Health Intelligence Team, establishing and shaping the research and evaluation practice of the Health and Wellbeing department. You will embed public health research skills and methodologies into our work, including health needs assessments and evaluations, to inform policy and practice and lead to better decision-making. This will include providing leadership, advice, training and support on activities such as primary data collection, evaluation design, qualitative analysis, co-production and engagement, literature review, mixed methods approaches and evidence synthesis. You will develop training and guidance on best practice and support the team and department in developing and incorporating research evidence and insights in their work. You will also manage Public Health Researchers (recruitment to take place after this post holder is in post). The post-holder will also work as a wider research and evaluation Community of Practice.

The things you'll achieve

This role will promote, coordinate, plan and support public health research activity through identifying and fostering opportunities for collaboration between academic research teams and public health practitioners. For example, you will raise awareness of research funding and training opportunities and collaborate on joint research proposals between the council and higher educational institutions (HEIs).

You will contribute to research networks, within the council and local integrated care system, as well as regional and national networks of similar local authority research practitioners (LARPs). You will provide guidance and support for those looking to develop research skills and experience, sharing knowledge of best practice and guidance, including creating a research strategy for the team and leading on the development of policies on areas such as ethics, practice, and methods. Working with council colleagues in the Insight, Learning and Impact team, you will promote a culture of research across the council, improving the robustness of methods to influence decision-making, and the dissemination of learning from local initiatives (for example through evaluations, workshops, conferences and publications). You will undertake regular reporting of activity, challenges, progress and achievements to the NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health to enable the evaluation of the impact of LARP roles and evidence their contribution to growing research capacity and capability in local authorities.

The post holder will work with a wide range of internal and external partners, across the Council, the NHS, Integrated Care System, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and other relevant partners, residents, and commissioned service providers. This is a key role needed to support the development of evidence-based approaches to policy and practice, and create a culture of continuous learning, to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and reduce health inequalities in Camden.

About you

- **Education:** Educated in a suitable postgraduate qualification in public health, social and behavioural sciences, health sciences or equivalent (such as considerable practical experience of gathering and analysing primary data and synthesising evidence from multiple sources)
- **Research and evaluation:** Experience in leading research projects and employing research and evaluation skills, including primary data collection (e.g., through surveys, interviews, focus groups, workshops, and participatory approaches), analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data, literature review, critical appraisal, evidence synthesis, and process and impact evaluation (e.g. theory of change and/or logic models). Experience with statistical software such as NVivo, R, Excel, SPSS. Good understanding of research ethics processes and considerations, and information governance. Ability to develop and deliver training and education on research skills.
- **Public Health:** A strong understanding of public health, health inequalities, and the wider determinants of health. Knowledge of different types of epidemiological study design, and appropriate methods for answering different public health questions. Ability to identify and address gaps in evidence by acquiring primary and secondary data, including a sound understanding of key public health data sets.
- **Engagement:** Ability to build meaningful relationships with residents, patients and people using services, to enable engagement and co-production, and learning from 'lived experience' insights, including trauma-informed approaches.
- **Stakeholder management:** Experience of working collaboratively across organisations and partners, including higher educational institutions, health services, the voluntary sector and patients and the public. Experience of influencing and negotiating with senior stakeholders, including championing the role of research and evaluation throughout the decision-making lifecycle
- **Strategic context:** A good understanding of local government, the health system environment, and the UK health research landscape, including the NIHR. Enthusiasm and experience of collaborating across organisations and partnerships, including with the voluntary sector and patients and the public. Skilled in navigating different organisational settings, conditions, and audience needs.
- **Project management and adaptability:** Good time management and prioritisation skills, able to work simultaneously on a number of complex and challenging projects. Planning, organising, and prioritising the workload of oneself and others to meet project deadlines, and deliver to a high quality with attention to detail. Ability to develop processes for the design and delivery of research and evaluation projects.
- **Communication:** High standard of communication skills, demonstrated by the ability to present complex oral and written information, in a variety of formats to a variety of audiences. Ability to produce high quality research reports which are accurate and easy to understand by all stakeholders. Experience of presenting and disseminating research findings at conferences and writing for peer reviewed journals.
- **Staff Management:** Ability to manage staff in accordance with corporate policies, demonstrated by an understanding of human resources policies and management strategies.

Other important stuff...

People management

This role will help recruit and line manage Public Health Researchers, with further expansion possible.

Work environment

This role is a mixture of working from 5 Pancras Square, home, and external spaces as appropriate.

Who you will be working with

You will report to the Head of Public Health Intelligence and work with partners across the Council, the NHS, Voluntary and Community Sector, commissioned service providers and residents.

The application process

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for assessment which will take place w/c 16th September.

Assessment will be a technical test and an interview with a panel on the same day.

To discuss the role or application process please contact

Will Yuill (Head of Health Intelligence) – will.yuill@camden.gov.uk

Who we are

Diversity & Inclusion

At Camden, we value and celebrate difference and encourage diversity in all respects. Our diverse workforce ensures we represent our communities to the best of our ability and enables us to make better decisions. Because of this, we particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and those of other non-white ethnicities, those who identify as LGBT+, neurodiverse and disabled people.

Agile working

At Camden we view work as an activity, not a place. We focus on performance, not presenteeism. We create trusting relationships, we embrace innovation rather than bureaucracy and we value people. Collaboration is the Camden way, silo working isn't.

Asking for Adjustments

Camden is committed to making our recruitment practices as accessible as possible for everyone. This includes making adjustments or changes for disabled people, neurodiverse people or people with long-term health conditions. If you would like us to do anything differently during the application, interview or assessment process, including providing information in an alternative format, please contact us on 020 7974 6655, at resourcing@camden.gov.uk

