

# Public Health Researcher

**Salary Range: £48,969 - £55,797**

**Grade: Level 4 Zone 2**

**Location: 5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG**

**Reports to: Lead Public Health Researcher**

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# About the role

The post-holder will be a member of Camden Council's Public Health Intelligence (PHI) Team, contributing to the strengthening of research and evaluation practice within the Health and Wellbeing department (HWB).

As a member of PHI, you will be part of a team of experienced health researchers, data analysts and engineers. PHI is a relatively new team within HWB and is looking to expand further in 2025. The team is organised into three main functions: Research, Analytics and Data. The Analytics and Data functions specialise in quantitative data management and analysis. The Research function specialises in qualitative research approaches, evidence synthesis and evaluation. This role will be key to embedding the developing research strategy by building a new research function within an ambitious and well-connected London borough.

You will work with the Lead Public Health Researcher to embed public health research skills and methodologies into our work to inform policy and practice, leading to better decision-making. This includes embedding quality research approaches within health needs assessments, evaluations and other departmental activity.

You will work collaboratively to advise on, design and deliver a wide range of research and evaluation related activities. This includes (but may not be limited to):

- Literature reviewing and evidence synthesis
- Co-production, public engagement [resident engagement]
- Collection of primary qualitative and quantitative data
- Mixed method evaluations of public health interventions of various scales and complexity
- Qualitative analysis
- Survey analysis

You will assist with the development and deployment of training and guidance to colleagues across HWB to strengthen the collective research and evaluation expertise of the department. You will also be part of a wider network of researchers within the Council, beyond HWB.

## The things you'll achieve

In this role you will play an integral part in delivering research and evaluation activity within HWB and strengthening the department's research output.

Drawing on your own research knowledge, skills and experience you will provide guidance and support to colleagues within HWB who are looking to conduct research and evaluation activities. You will also contribute to the implementation of the team's research strategy, developing policies, training and guidance (for example on ethics, methods and dissemination).

Key to this role is the development of strong working relationships with a wide range of internal and external partners. This includes within the department and the wider Council. Externally this includes working with NHS partners, within the Integrated Care System (ICS), with local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, other service providers, academic organisations, residents and other stakeholders.

Situated at the intersection of research, policy and practice, you will work on high profile, mission-led projects that need evidence to guide their development, improvement and decisions about longer-term sustainability. Through these activities, you will make a positive impact on the development of evidence-based decision making which, ultimately, will contribute improving the health and wellbeing of residents and reducing health inequalities within the Borough and beyond.

# About you

**We are seeking an individual who is passionate about tackling and redressing health inequalities. You will be an advocate of evidence-based decision-making: Embedding this within LBC through conducting and enabling the production of high-quality research evidence, ensuring the organisation makes the best decisions possible.**

## Essential Criteria

**Research and evaluation:** experience of primary data collection, designing and delivering evaluations of different types, scales and complexity. Conducting literature reviews and evidence syntheses. Knowledge of ethical research practice, data management, a range of analytical methods (both quantitative and qualitative). Awareness of research governance.

**Public Health expertise:** A sound understanding of public health research and practice. Knowledge and interest in health inequalities and the wider determinants of health. Knowledge of different methods appropriate for answering different public health questions. Ability to critically appraise research gaps within public health. Knowledge of anti-racist approaches to public health.

**Broader contextual expertise:** good understanding of local government, the health system environment, and the UK health research landscape, including the NIHR.

**Training and upskilling:** experiencing of designing and delivering training on research-related activity.

**Relationship building:** experience of collaborating within and across organisations, including with HEIs, health services, the voluntary sector and patients and the public. Awareness of different organisational settings, conditions, priorities and needs.

**Project management:** 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 that enable the design and ongoing management of research and evaluation projects.

**Communication:** ability to communicate effectively with a range of stakeholders. 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 varied groups of stakeholders.

**Approach to working:** ability to work on projects at different levels of pace. Ability to adapt to changing priorities. Comfortable with complexity. Comfortable with working iteratively. Ability to work both collaboratively and independently. Has a creative and pragmatic approach to research-related problem solving.

**Education:** First degree in relevant subject (e.g., public health, sociology, health sciences, social and behavioural sciences). Postgraduate qualification in a relevant area (e.g., public health, social research methods) or equivalent experience (for example, working in a research and evaluation role in the charity sector).

## Desirable criteria:

- experience conducting research with groups relevant to the work of HWB (e.g., children and young people; people from minoritised ethnic groups; inclusion health groups; health and social care professionals)
- skills in language relevant to borough demographics (e.g., Bengali)
- familiarity with or interest in statistical programming language such as R
- experience evaluating complex interventions
- experience of realist evaluation
- experience of economic evaluation
- experience of presenting and disseminating research findings in different formats (e.g: at conferences, via peer reviewed journals or other means).

# Other important stuff...

## **Development**

This role is suitable for an individual who is motivated to broaden their expertise across a range of methodologies and health topic areas.

## **Work environment**

This role is a mixture of working from 5 Pancras Square, home, and external spaces within the community (as appropriate).

## **Who you will be working with**

You will report to the Lead Public Health Researcher within the Public Health Intelligence team which includes a mixture of analysts, researchers, and data professionals. You will also work with partners across the department, 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 [XXX]. 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: Charli Colegate (Lead Public Health Researcher) – [charli.colegate@camden.gov.uk](mailto:charli.colegate@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](mailto:resourcing@camden.gov.uk)

