Research Associate

Department: Health Sciences
Hours of work: Full Time / 37 hours per week
Contract type: Fixed term for 24 months
Salary: £32,817 - £40,322 a year / Grade 6
Introduction

We are looking for a Research Associate with excellent quantitative skills to contribute to a portfolio of research projects within the public health and society research group. The post holder will split their time between supporting the Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub (BSBIH) and a suite of projects on inequalities in perinatal mental health. You will work under the supervision and mentorship of Dr Sarah Blower and Dr Stephanie Prady.

The post holder will contribute to a range of projects, including the evaluation workstream of the Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub (BSBIH), as well as a series of projects exploring and responding to inequalities in the detection and treatment of perinatal mental health problems.

Better Start Bradford, a community partnership led by Bradford Trident, was awarded £49 million from the Big Lottery Fund to help parents give their children the best start in life. Over ten years (2015-2025), a portfolio of evidence and science based projects will engage with approximately 20,000 potential beneficiaries, to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of the children, their communication and language skills and their diet and nutrition. The BSBIH unites leading academics from the Universities of York, Bradford, Leeds and Leeds Beckett to provide a centre for evaluation of effectiveness of the programme. As part of the Innovation Hub a new birth cohort has been established, which will collate new knowledge about the health and lives of 5,000 new mothers, their children and their partners and follow the families as the children grow up.

The Yorkshire and Humber Applied Research Collaboration Early Life and Development theme is developing a research programme investigating inequalities in perinatal mental health and healthcare, with the ultimate goal of remediation. This programme will bring together academics, clinicians, patients, public health and voluntary sector partners to understand the nature and scale of disparities both in the population and within services that are generated by social inequalities and discrimination. Initially, this project will be heavily embedded within Better Start Bradford and the local West Yorkshire area, and aims to widen engagement to services across the UK.

Main purpose of the role

- To conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research
- To assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To conduct collaborative research projects, duties to include:
  - analysis and interpretation of research data;
  - use of appropriate research techniques and methods;
  - writing up of research results and dissemination through publications, seminar and conference presentations and public engagement and outreach activities;
  - contributing to the identification of possible new areas of research
- To contribute to the preparation of research proposals and applications to external bodies
• To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research projects, including organisation of meetings, the development of promotional or educational material including website maintenance and development
• To provide guidance to other staff/students, as required
• To work within, and across, research teams of various sizes
• To liaise with the community, policy-makers, professionals, academics and other stakeholders to optimise the evaluation of interventions to improve childhood outcomes
• To attend and contribute to working group meetings and participate in other committees and working groups as required
• To actively seek new opportunities and partnerships to both advance work in the area and for personal development
### Person specification

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>First degree in a social science or health-related area</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>PhD involving qualitative methods, or mixed methods, in a health related area or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Masters degree in a social science or health related subject</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge in applied health research to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of a range of quantitative research techniques and methodologies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge and understanding of different designs to test effectiveness of public health interventions such as parent programmes e.g. randomised control trials, stepped-wedge trials, quasi-experimental approaches etc.</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of evidence synthesis methods</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of health inequalities and the social determinants of health</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of child and parent health or mental health</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Knowledge of the Bradford and/or West Yorkshire public health context</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Knowledge of methodological challenges surrounding inequalities research</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Knowledge of mixed methods techniques</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Competency in a range of statistical methods for evaluation of public health interventions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience with a range of methods for quantitative analysis e.g. descriptive epidemiology, factor analysis, latent class analysis, regression analysis, meta-analysis etc.</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency in evidence synthesis such as systematic reviews, scoping reviews, interpretive synthesis or documentary analysis</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to develop and conduct individual and collaborative research projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required</td>
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<td>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
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<td>Competency to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency with statistical software packages such as STATA / SPSS</td>
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<td>Competency working with large data sets</td>
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<td>Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media</td>
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<td><strong>Experience</strong></td>
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<td>Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research</td>
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<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative</td>
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<td>Experience of writing up research work for publication</td>
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<td>Experience in the analysis of routinely collected data</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td><strong>Personal attributes</strong></td>
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<td>Commitment to social justice and equality in health and health care</td>
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<td>Commitment to working with families and services to promote positive outcomes for children</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</td>
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<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)</td>
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<td>Positive attitude to colleagues and students</td>
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<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
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<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes</td>
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<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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