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| Job Description |  |
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| Job Title | Senior Research Associate (DR HOPE) |
| **Department** | Centre for Rural Health Sciences (CRHS) |
| **Responsible To** | Project PI and Head of Centre (CRHS) |
| **Responsible For** | N/A |
| **Grade** | 6 |
| **Location** | UHI House  |
| Job Objective |
| The project aims to test and implement the use of the Trigger Tool and assertive outreach for those at high risk of drug-related harm within the local rural Emergency Department (ED). Additionally, to create and test theories to identify how the Trigger Tool works, for whom, and in what circumstances. Scotland’s drug death rate of 327 per million population annually is the highest recorded in Europe with Norway being the next largest at 85 per million. Despite incremental improvements over the last few years across Scotland the number of Drug-Related Deaths in the Highlands continues to rise (NRS 2023). Assertive outreach to those most at risk has been shown to have a protective effect within this vulnerable group. Yet, until recently, there was no process to identify and proactively outreach those most at risk. The Caithness Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service undertook some improvement work in 2023 to create, test and implement a Trigger Tool and associated outreach. However, the tool still needs to be implemented within the ED as people who use drugs are frequent attenders due to an increase in ill health and accidents associated with their high-risk behaviour. Also, there have been no studies to identify how the Trigger Tools works, for whom, and in what circumstances.The postholder will lead the day-to-day project management of the research. This will include all stages of the research process, from ethical approval, recruitment, scheduling and conducting online interviews, data management and analysis, project reports and dissemination. The post holder will be directed and supported by the Project PI through regular meetings.  |
| Key Duties & Responsibilities |
| The primary objective of this post is to lead the day-to-day project management, this will include all stages of the research process, from recruitment to dissemination. The project duration is 12 months. The post holder will report to the project team monthly (and to the project PI as necessary) to ensure timely attainment of the following project actions:• To lead day to day project management• To obtain ethical approval • To liaise with ED and outreach workers • To lead the recruitment and consent of busy practitioners • To schedule and conduct focus groups or individual interviews• To manage research data using approved secure University IT systems• To conduct complex qualitative analysis and generate findings• To draft publication outputs for dissemination (reports and peer review publications)• To contribute to project presentations in meetings, seminars, and conferences• To work flexibly as required to complete the project milestones and deliverables  |
| **Key project skills requirements*** Sourcing relevant literature
* Independently undertaking participant recruitment and informed consent
* Advanced interviewing skills including virtual interviews with participants
* Advanced communication skills
* High level negotiation and collaborative skills
* Complex qualitative analysis skills – using thematic analysis from multiple sources
* Critical thinking skills
* Academic writing skills (project report and manuscripts)
* IT skills to manage online data and conduct qualitative analysis
* Availability and willingness to conduct interviews virtually
* Excellent research governance to comply with best practice and GDPR requirements
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| **General duties*** To identify, manage and report on risks associated with the role.
* To take due care of yourself and others in respect of Health & Safety.
* To attend training courses that may be identified as necessary by your Line Manager.
* Such other duties temporarily or on a continuing basis, as may reasonably be required, commensurate with your grade.
* Contribute to UHI's climate, biodiversity, and sustainability goals, including net-zero by 2040.
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| This is a description of the job as it is presently constituted. It is normal practice to periodically review job descriptions to ensure that they are relevant to the job currently being performed, and to incorporate any changes which have occurred or are being proposed. The review process is carried out jointly by the line manager and employee and you are therefore expected to participate fully in such discussions. In all cases, it is UHI’s aim to reach agreement to reasonable changes, but where it is not possible to reach agreement UHI reserves the right to make reasonable changes to your job description which are commensurate with your grade after consultation with you.Date: 18th July 2024 |