**Research Associate – Acceleration Reform Fund**

**Position:** Research Associate

**Salary** £29,179 per annum pro rata

**Hours** 21 hours per week

**Reports To:** ARF Project Lead

**Area:** Derbyshire including Derby City

**Base:** Ripley Carers Centre, home and community working

**Contract length:** 1 year

**Project details:**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has provided Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) funding to each Integrated Care Board to support innovative practices in how unpaid Carers are supported. On behalf of Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) are delivering a hospital liaison project that improves recognition and inclusion of Carers during the patients care planning and discharge.

Hospital discharge can often be a challenging and worrying time for Carers. For many, this can also be their first experience of caregiving. Carers often report feeling excluded during discharge planning which can lead to unplanned and unsafe discharges and increased probability of readmission to hospital. Early identification of Carers is vital to ensure preventative and supportive interventions maintain emotional, physical, social and workplace wellbeing. The purpose of the project is to improve recognition and inclusion of Carers throughout the discharge process and reducing readmission of patients.

**Role description**

DCA are recruiting a Research Associate to plan and conduct research to support the learning from the project and evidence the outcomes for Carers, patients and hospital teams.

The successful applicant will have proven experience in similar research projects with a relevant PhD or equivalent. They will contribute ideas and develop research methodologies and techniques.

Duties include:

1. Review of progress of the existing project team to determine the most appropriate research priorities for the project.
2. Design a suitable research project to address define project aim(s) and research question(s).
3. Apply for and gain suitable ethical approval.
4. Conduct research project utilising qualitative and/or quantitative methods as appropriate.
5. Analyse research findings and determine the need for further investigation
6. Produce relevant outputs for dissemination of project outcomes to a range of audiences.

**Person Specification:**

**Essential Criteria**

Qualifications

* PhD or equivalent (pending or awarded) in a relevant discipline

Experience

* Experience of sufficient breadth or depth of research methodologies and techniques required for the role
* Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity

Skills, knowledge & abilities

* Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods
* Ability to communicate complex information clearly both in writing and presentations
* Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity
* Ability to build relationships and work collaboratively with colleagues, internally and externally
* Ability to use initiative and creativity to solve problems in a research context
* Self-motivated and able to work independently and as part of a team

Business requirements

* Demonstrate competences, core behaviours and supplementary behaviours that support and promote Derbyshire Carers Association’s core value
* Flexible to the needs of others
* Committed to a high-performance culture, fostering continuous improvement and driving quality
* Able to take a flexible approach to work

**Desirable Criteria**

Experience

* Experience of writing publications for journals and presenting research at conferences