

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Community Co-Researcher		
Directorate	Public Health		
Reporting to	Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) Programme Manager		
Grade	14		
Evaluation ref	TR0138	Job Family ref	
Role purpose			
The postholder will use their lived experiences and knowledge in shaping research, evaluation, and translating findings into actionable outcomes. They will work in partnership with a variety of groups and people all wanting to improve community health and wellbeing in Somerset.			
Responsibilities			
Service delivery			
• Work in the Community Participation Workstream of the HDRC team, which seeks to improve lives in Somerset in partnership with communities and organisations representing, supporting, and serving them. • Draw on your personal knowledge and lived experiences to shape the co-development of projects from the start to end. • Participate in research and evaluation training, support, and capacity-building activities. • As a member of the HDRC team, work with people with lived experience of relevant health and wellbeing issues to co-develop and implement research and evaluation projects in Somerset, including gathering, analysing, and sharing information. • Participate in and provide support to members of the Lived Experience Advisory Partnerships (LEAPs) and Lived Experience Advisory Research Networks (LEARNS) within the HDRC to increase community engagement and raise awareness of community-based participatory research and evaluation.			
Stakeholder engagement			
• Help build and nurture positive relationships between your team and outside services and organisations. • Work within a community environment undertaking specific tasks including community engagement, accessing community resources and working with other external agencies [e.g. community members & the voluntary, community faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE)] across Somerset • Act as a Community Co-Researcher role model to promote community participation in research and evaluation projects. • Represent the views, perceptions, and experiences of community members at meetings and forums.			

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Project/Programme management

- Support the evaluation of the Community Co-Researcher role; the Community Participation Workstream and the HDRC programme.
- Share research findings by working with the HDRC team to prepare posters/ research papers for meetings, conferences, and publications accessible to a wide audience including local communities.

Creativity and problem solving

- Use own initiative to engage with and support approaches to promote participatory networks for research and evaluation across Council functions and the VCFSE sector.
- Work with all partners to develop creative solutions to issues and challenges that emerge in the course of this work.

Financial/budget management

- Support the HDRC team with managing remuneration for public participants in research and related activities.
- Work within allocated budgets to support the delivery of projects and initiatives.
- Performance frameworks / monitoring and evaluation.
- Support the evaluation and ongoing improvement of the Community Participation Workstream and the wider HDRC.
- Co-produce reports with the Community Participation Workstream team.

Commissioning and contract management

- Work with the Community Participation Workstream team to identify community research priorities and to develop research funding applications.

Communication

- Champion the Co-Researcher role, the HDRC, and the Community Participation Workstream – internally with colleagues across all Council functions, and externally with partners and communities.
- Work with the HDRC Communications Workstream to improve how the HDRC communicates to the wider public.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable	
First-hand experience of and knowledge about the issues affecting the health and wellbeing of people in Somerset, and passionate about improving these with communities.	X		

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Interest in community-engaged research and evaluation (previous research experience is not required as training and support will be provided).	X		
Good at engaging with people.	X		
Good at listening.	X		
Able to be reliable.	X		
Ability to work independently and as part of a team.	X		
Ability to use a computer, including emails and online video calls, or willing to learn.	X		
Ability to manage time, own workload, and prioritise with minimal supervision.	X		
Willingness to receive training and development opportunities to support the HDRC and you in your role.	X		
Willingness to understand the work of the HDRC.	X		
Knowledge of Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR).		X	
Awareness of inequalities of health and the building blocks (social determinants) of health.		X	

Dimensions of role

Contacts and Relationships

- Work in partnership with Spark Somerset and other VCFSE organisations, and with colleagues across Council functions.
- Collaborate with and take guidance from the UWE Bristol and other academic partners as appropriate on standards for community participation in research.
- Establish and expand close working relationships with a variety of colleagues across the NHS and the VCFSE sector.

Working Conditions

- Flexible attitude to working hours.
- Willingness to work some evenings and weekends.
- Car driver or otherwise mobile with appropriate business insurance.

Working Arrangements

- Hybrid arrangement comprising community, office, and home-based working.

Corporate Responsibilities

Understand, uphold, and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity, and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do. Equality and Diversity practice covers

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both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: 06.12.2024