The Centre for Health Equity Research (CHER), part of the Division of Health Research (DHR) within Lancaster University’s Faculty of Health and Medicine is seeking to appoint Senior Research Associate(s) to work on a legacy project that aims to maximise the reach and impact of research conducted during the NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Research and Care for the North West Coast (CLAHRC NWC). The posts are available full time/part time and are fixed term until 30 September 2020.

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Established in 2008, the Faculty of Health and Medicine brings together a critical mass of expertise in teaching, research and outreach from three established departments and their associated centres: Biomedical and Life Sciences; Health Research and Lancaster Medical School.

The Faculty provides research and teaching in an innovative and distinctive blend of subjects across the health and medicine spectrum. We have established links with private, public and third sector healthcare organisations and work closely with institutions in the region and beyond. We have successfully built our reputation in several key areas such as ageing, end of life care, mental health, neurodegenerative disease, developmental biology and disability research, where our academic staff are at the forefront of their fields.

The Faculty offers a diverse range of both undergraduate and postgraduate taught and research programmes in biology, biomedicine, medicine and the social aspects of health. We deliver innovative blended learning courses and are working with healthcare organisations to provide customised Continuing Professional Development.

The Faculty’s research environment was ranked joint first in the UK in the field, in the 2014 Research Evaluation Framework, with a 100% score on everything from investment in staff and facilities to research income and collaboration. Overall, 89% of the Faculty’s research was judged world leading or internationally excellent, with 84% of research outputs being categorised as 3* and 4*. This places the Faculty among the elite universities in this field.

The Faculty also performed well in The Times Higher Education's research intensity league table which recognises the proportion of staff which are research active, finishing 3rd overall in the UK.

The Faculty is committed to pursuing world-class research. It brings together biomedical, medical, and social science researchers to tackle key challenges of the 21st Century within health and medicine.
Ranked third in our field in the 2014 Research Assessment Exercise on the 'intensity weighted' score, equal first in 'research environment' and in the top 10 for 'research power', the Faculty offers an ideal academic environment to develop your research career.

The Faculty achieved an Athena Swan Silver Award in 2014 (renewed April 2018).

**Division of Health Research**

Established at Lancaster University in 1996, the Division of Health Research (DHR) is a multidisciplinary department that promotes health-related research and education across the University, the North West, nationally and internationally. DHR has a vibrant research community comprising of over 100 staff from a range of academic and applied backgrounds including: sociology, social policy, health geography, public health, psychology, health economics and nursing. We share an interest in the perspectives that the social sciences bring to an understanding of health and health inequalities, ageing, disability, illness, the delivery of health and social care and interventions and actions to promote population health and health equity.

Members of the Division of Health Research come from a wide range of academic disciplines and professional backgrounds. We have a well-established reputation for conducting excellent academic research that is both interdisciplinary and translational.

Research groups in the Division work closely with our colleagues in the rest of the Faculty of Health and Medicine on the Faculty’s core interdisciplinary research themes: **Ageing; Mental Health; Health Information, Computation and Statistics; Infectious Disease Transmission and Biology and Social and Economic Inequality in Public Health.**

The Division has good relationships with NHS and social care partners, and the voluntary sector. We also host the regional and local centres for the [NIHR Research Design Service for the North West](https://www.ndr.ac.uk/)

Lancaster University is the lead institution (with the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Central Lancashire) in a collaborative delivering the NIHR Research Design Service North West (RDS NW), which has just been funded for a further 5 years to 2023. The RDS NW provides free design and methodological support to applied health and social care researchers in North West England to develop grant applications to NIHR and other national and international research funders. This advice is largely provided by academics, funded for part of their time by the RDS to co-ordinate and deliver the necessary advice, and there are opportunities for academics within DHR to engage in RDS work.

In the 2014 Research Assessment Exercise our research was ranked 3rd (intensity weighted score) and 1st for research environment nationally in UoA 3.

The educational programmes delivered by the Division range from postgraduate research degrees (PhDs), professional doctorates such as the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and a suite of blended learning Masters and PhDs in ageing, dementia, palliative care, public health, organisational health and well-being, health economics and policy, and mental health. DHR has over 270 students registered on its full-time and part-time postgraduate programmes. We
collaborate with Lancaster University Management School to deliver several courses and also contribute to teaching in Biomedical and Life Science, Medicine and Psychology.

Lancaster University

Lancaster is a top 10 UK university and top 10 in all three major national league tables. Its 7th place ranking in The Guardian University Guide 2020, 7th place ranking in The Complete University Guide and 8th place ranking in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020, as well as the winning of the coveted University of the Year award in 2018, cements its place as an elite UK university. Lancaster has a world-class reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research and is highly ranked in international league tables such as the QS World Rankings. We have been named International University of the Year 2020 by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020.

The Lancaster University campus occupies a beautiful 360 acre parkland site at Bailrigg, just three miles from Lancaster City Centre. £450m has been invested into the estate since 2002, transforming the campus. Key developments include: new academic centres of excellence, student social facilities, improved teaching spaces and one of the largest student residences projects in the UK. Set near to the Lune Valley and the Forest of Bowland – areas of outstanding natural beauty – and on the edge of the Lake District, the campus is located a short distance from the vibrant and historic city of Lancaster, which has excellent schools. Lancaster is easily accessible by road (M6 Junction 33) and rail (West Coast mainline). It is approximately an hour to Manchester International Airport, and about 2.5 hours by train to London.

Centre for Health Equity Research

The Centre of Health Equity Research (CHER) is a partner in the Liverpool and Lancaster Collaboration for Public Health Research (LiLaC), which is one of eight academic member of the NIHR School of Public Health Research in England. We are based in the Division of Health Research at Lancaster University in North West England: a region with relatively poor health compared with the south of England and with significant inequalities in health between more and less advantaged groups and neighbourhoods. These inequalities have a long history, but they have continued to widen over recent decades driven by increasing social and economic inequalities which in turn limit the control people have over their lives, helping to shape behaviours that are potentially health damaging.

The Centre and LiLaC bring together academics from across disciplines with policy makers and practitioners from across sectors and members of the public experiencing social and economic disadvantage to:

- Better understand the social and economic drivers of health inequalities;
- Develop and evaluate innovative approaches to address these inequalities locally, nationally and globally; and
- Disseminate existing and new knowledge in innovative and accessible ways to diverse audiences to inform action for greater health equity.

Full details of our current staff, research and latest publications can be found online here:

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/health-and-medicine/research/chir/
The posts

CLAHRC NWC was a 5-year collaboration between universities, Local Authorities, NHS organisations, third sector organisations and members of the public. The mission was to undertake applied research and development work that would contribute to reducing health inequalities. The legacy project is focused on producing and disseminating resources for public health policy and practice, 3rd sector organisations and community leaders based on two areas of CLAHRC’s work: the Neighbourhood Resilience Programme and the Health Equity Mainstreaming Strategy. Key aspects of the role include:

- Analysing and synthesising qualitative data already captured.
- Conducting individual/group qualitative interviews.
- Carrying out reviews of academic and grey literature.
- Producing creative practical resources for diverse audiences based on findings from programme evaluations.
- Co-organisation of dissemination and engagement activities with stakeholders.

CLAHRC NWC delivered a wide range of collaborative research and development programmes from 2014 to September 2019. (www.clahrc-nwc.nihr.ac.uk). The work was conducted with Partner organisations (e.g. health and care providers, Local Authorities) and members of the public and aimed to contribute to a reduction in health inequalities and improve the health of the north west population.

The Senior Research Associate post(s) will support a legacy project that aims to maximise the reach and impact of CLAHRC-NWC’s activities that were led by Lancaster University researchers. Key areas of work are outlined below. The post holder(s) will be expected to work on one or more of these strands of work depending on their experience and expertise.

(i) Maximising the legacy of Neighbourhood Resilience Programme (https://neighbourhoodresilience.uk/). This programme was based in a network of ten Neighbourhoods across the NW coast area. It aimed to enhance systems resilience in these neighbourhoods, by using evidence from research alongside the knowledge of people who lived and worked in the local areas, to identify shared priorities for action. The programme provided a valuable opportunity for joint working between residents, professionals, policy makers, and other stakeholders, and involved diverse projects to tackle social determinants of health (e.g. debt reduction, social connectedness, air quality). The legacy activities will support the longer-term reach and impact of the programme’s evaluation, through the production of resources for policy, practice, community and academic audiences and a range of dissemination activities.

(ii) Strengthening the health equity focus of public health research: This comprises two linked strands of work both aiming to maximise the legacy of the Health Inequalities Assessment Tool www.hiat.org.uk. The HIAT was produced by CLAHRC NWC in 2016 to support those involved in health research to integrate equity into their work.

a. This strand of activity will involve contributing to evidence reviews and developmental work to enhance the intersectional focus of the HIAT for future use by public health researchers. The tool will then be piloted with public health
researchers in the NIHR School for Public Health Research to explore how the equity focus of their research can be enhanced.

b. This stand of activity will involve contributing to qualitative research on the longer-term impacts of HIAT in people’s knowledge of and action on health inequalities. The HIAT has been used extensively by individuals and teams within the CLAHRC NWC. Interviews will be undertaken with these early adopters and champions in order to track the tool’s impact beyond their research projects. The learning will be utilised to create web-based narratives and case studies, and a good practice guide.