**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Senior Research Associate Health Equity**  
NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) North West Coast (NWC)  
Vacancy Ref: A3313

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<tr>
<th>Job Title:</th>
<th>Senior Research Associate</th>
<th>Grade: 7P</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department/College:</td>
<td>Division of Health Research at Lancaster University</td>
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**Directly responsible to:** The post holder will be directly accountable to and line managed by the Lancaster lead for the NIHR ARC (currently Professor Catherine Walshe). However, they will be a member of the ARC Methodological Innovation, Development, Adaptation and Support (MIDAS) team led by Professor Andy Clegg at the University of Central Lancashire. Professor Walshe will supervise the post holder’s work and agree and oversee the post holder’s contribution to the core methodologists’ team.

**Supervisory responsibility:** there are no line management or staff supervisory responsibilities associated with this post. However, the post holder will be responsible for coordination of research and public involvement activities as required and there may be occasional supervision of temporary research staff and community researchers.

**Other contacts**  
The post will require close contacts to be developed and maintained with: staff working across the NIHR ARC NW Coast programmes, ARC member organisations and local communities and the public involved in ARC. These include: the five university members (Lancaster, Liverpool, Edge Hill, Liverpool John Moores and UCLAN); members of the ARC Directorate and Management Group; Professor Mark Gabbay, Director of ARC NWC; leads and Managers of other ARC themes; staff in Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS trusts, local authorities, primary care and third sector organisations; and local communities and members of the public.

**Main duties**

1. Leading and adapting, in collaboration with the MIDAS team and other ARC associated staff, a programme of work (including training and development opportunities) aimed at further embedding a health equity focus across the work of the ARC NWC and its partners. The specific objectives of this strategic programme of work are summarised below.
2. Operating as the first point of contact for enquiries relating to health inequalities (HI) work in the ARC NWC
3. Liaising with the ARC NWC Lead on health inequalities (Professor Ben Barr) and ensuring ARC NWC is represented in national HI initiatives
4. Liaising with the ARC national lead on health inequalities (NE and North Cumbria ARC - Professor Clare Bambra) and ensuring ARC NWC is represented in national HI initiatives
5. Identifying and exploiting opportunities for raising the profile of ARC NWC work on mainstreaming an equity focus in applied research and implementation with other ARCs and other relevant agencies nationally and internationally
6. Lead and/or contribute to the development of proposals for external funding for applied research and implementation initiatives
7. Where relevant manage budgets for discrete pieces of work relating to HI mainstreaming.
8. Lead and/or contribute to a range of outputs arising from the ARC NWC work including academic peer reviewed journal papers
9. Contribute as appropriate to the wider ARC NWC community through participation in cross theme collaborative activities and representing NIHR ARC NWC externally as required
10. Undertake any other duties as required by the Lancaster ARC lead and/or Head of Division

Specific objectives related to health equity mainstreaming across the ARC NWC and beyond:

1. Integrate health equity considerations in applied research activities
• Engage ARC NWC themes, members and the public in health equity mainstreaming
• Review ARC NWC member organisations strategies/policies on health equity to inform our approach, allow collaboration and ensure consistency.
• Ensure all research activities use the Health Inequalities Assessment Tool (HIAT) and/or other relevant health equity tools to guide their research.
• Provide guidance to ARC NWC themes, members and public advisers on the general principles involved in incorporating health equity in their research.
• Support ARC NWC themes, members and public advisers in applying health equity considerations in their research, helping to identify and problem solve the differing challenges found. Provide guidance to others through developing exemplars focusing on different research designs.
• Evaluate the impact of health equity mainstreaming on the conduct of research (short-term), provision of services (medium-term) and the population’s health and wellbeing (long-term).
• Review and refine ARC NWC’s approach to health equity mainstreaming.

2. Increasing competencies, capabilities and awareness of health equity
• Collaborate across the ARC NWC to improve knowledge and expertise in health equity mainstreaming, producing educational and training materials, conducting training sessions (face-to-face, on-line and self-directed) and organising a seminar series.
• Develop a strategy for communicating the importance of health equity, our approach to addressing it through research, the support and resources available, and the progress the ARC NWC has made in reducing the effects of inequalities.
• Identify, engage and support advocates in ARC NWC member organisations and the public to champion the importance of adopting health equity mainstreaming.
• Recognise ARC NWC’s good practice and achievements through publicising and rewarding impact.

3. Strengthen institutional mechanisms for health equity mainstreaming
• Establish a health equity sub-group to promote networking among those interested in health equity, educate on best practice, and support the conduct of methodological and applied research.
• Support research with a focus on factors that support health and wellbeing rather than on causes of disease (salutogenesis not pathogenic) and on the unequal distributional impacts of policies on health and wellbeing.

4. Engaging and Involving Patients, the Public and Communities
• Collaborate with ARCNWC Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement on providing guidance and training to public advisers and the wider community on health equity.

The post holder will usually be required to travel extensively across the North West Coast area.