Job Title: Senior Research Associate

Department/College: Division of Health Research. (Collaboration with Linguistics and English Language and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)

Present Grade: Grade 7

Directly responsible to: Professors Fiona Lobban and Elena Semino

Supervisory responsibility for: Interns and student placements

Other contacts

Internal: Professor Fiona Lobban; colleagues within Spectrum Team; colleagues within Division, Faculty and University.

External: NIHR, Collaborators: Rachael Meacock (Manchester Uni); Nick Shryane (Manchester Uni); Sara Wise (Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) SHaRON team, Matt Rawsthorne (HD Labs): Peer Online Forum host organisations, study participants including service users, staff, volunteers

Major Duties:

1. Theory development - Conduct a realist informed review of existing literature and stakeholder theories. This will include systematic iterative searching of relevant literature, screening, data extraction and synthesis, prioritisation of candidate theories, iterative testing and development of theories with key stakeholders.

2. Theory testing - Recruitment, and in-depth interviewing with hosts, moderators, and users of peer online mental health communities; Qualitative analysis of interview data to test hypothesised theories; Discourse linguistic analysis of posts made in online forums to test hypothesised theories; Triangulation of findings from qualitative data, with computational linguistic analysis and longitudinal survey data from online community members.

3. Contribute to the Co-design process to use the programme theory to inform the development of best-practice tools and training designed to improve peer online forums, such as attractive ways to promote online mental health forums; guidance for designing and setting up online mental health forums; training for people who support forums; a community of practice for these supporters to work together to build up this role and their skills.

4. Write up and disseminate findings through different mediums to a range of stakeholder audiences including study participants, academics, clinical staff, and the general population.

5. Participate in regular project meetings and participate in research networks more broadly.

6. Write and/or contribute to academic articles (of suitable quality to be returned in the Research Excellence Framework) and contribute to other publications arising out of the project.
7. Develop innovative approaches to presentation and engagement, delivering research seminars and disseminating research findings and carrying out impact activities as appropriate.

8. Contribute to the national and international research reputation of the project.

9. Participate in and/or take the lead on (as appropriate) the writing of new follow-on research proposals that build on the results of the project.

10. Work within the strategic direction of the University as a whole and the University’s code of ethics and practice guidelines.

11. Undertake any other duties as required by the Head of Division, Principal Investigator or nominated representative.