



Welcome to the McPin Foundation

Thank you for your interest in our organisation and this “sessional researcher” position. The post will be based at University College London but employed through McPin.

About us

The McPin Foundation exists to transform mental health research by placing people affected by mental health problems at its centre. Each of our employees is vital to us in delivering our mission, which is to ‘champion experts by experience in research so that people’s mental health is improved in communities everywhere’.

Our Vision

A world where the value of expertise based upon experience is recognised and is at the heart of all stages of mental health research

Our Core Values

We passionately believe involving people directly affected by mental health problems improves research

We are driven to produce work of the highest quality

We are inclusive and listen to all opinions and perspectives

We collaborate with others to deliver our mission

We care about the wellbeing of everyone connected with us

You can find out more about us at www.mcpin.org.

Job Description	
Job Title: Sessional researcher	Prepared by: Research Director
Location: This post will mostly be based at UCL, Maple House, Tottenham Court Road, London and working from home.	Closing Date: 15/6/2017 at 5pm Interview Date: Within week of 26 th June
<p>Terms and conditions</p> <p>Days: Approximately 40-50 days (over 12 months) Salary: from £125 per day (rates negotiable based upon experience) This role can either be consultancy or with an employment contract (temporary) If under a contract of employment, Probationary period: 6 months, Notice period: 4 weeks</p>	
<p><u>About the job</u></p> <p>We are recruiting to a researcher role for our AD-CARE study, delivered in partnership with University College London (UCL). The McPin Foundation is the patient and public involvement (PPI) lead in the study which is exploring the role of acute day units in the crisis care pathway in England. The chief investigator is Professor David Osborn at UCL and most of the research team are based with him. This role has been created to support the UCL based researcher to deliver qualitative interviews across 5 sites in England, carry out detailed analysis / synthesis and write up the results.</p> <p>This is an important role supported by the study team and a Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP). Qualitative research is best carried out as a team. The sessional researcher will complete a few interviews and be responsible for co-developing and applying a coding framework using NVIVO software.</p> <p>It is essential that the post holder upholds the values of the organisation. We encourage people with direct experience of mental health problems to work for us, sharing their skills as well as their direct experiences of managing mental ill health. In this post we are looking for people who can use mental health expertise from experience in their research alongside their research skills. We term this Peer Research at McPin.</p> <p>Our ambitious and friendly team conduct a range of mental health and evaluation projects, develop public involvement strategies for academic teams across the country and deliver discrete pieces of mental health research policy work. All our activities seek to place experts from experience at the centre. We want to transform mental health research through the direct involvement of those affected by mental health problems because we believe that this leads to higher quality and more relevant research.</p>	

Key Responsibilities

- Discussing the study with and obtaining informed consent from participants with severe mental illness, in a variety of settings and using own experiences of mental health problems to do so
- Liaising with mental health professionals
- Conducting semi-structured qualitative interviews with service users, carers, and staff in ADUs
- Data analysis using qualitative software
- Contributing to the write up of journal articles
- Attendance at meetings as required for conduct of the study
- Travelling to research sites to conduct research interviews and collect data

The key responsibilities above give a broad outline of the functions of the post. However, these must be approached in a flexible manner. The post holder will be expected to adapt to changing circumstances and undertake other duties appropriate to the grade of post as allocated by your Line Manager. The outline of responsibilities may change from time to time.

Competencies

A post holder who is meeting the requirements of this role will demonstrate the following competencies in their work:

- **Quality:** Understands scope of own role and how this may develop; works as an effective and responsible team member; prioritises and organises workload effectively; evaluates the quality of own and others' work; raises any quality issues and related risks to the appropriate person.
- **Equality:** Values people as individuals; takes into account own and others' behaviour and its effects on others and takes appropriate action when own or others' behaviours undermine equality and diversity.
- **Information:** Gathers, analyses, interprets and presents extensive and or complex data and information to a sufficient quality; complies with legislation, policies and procedures; implements search strategies for reviewing data and summarising results.
- **Communication:** Communicates effectively, using a range of different media, including email, telephone, social media and the web; maintains accurate and complete records consistent with legislation, policies and procedures; ensures effective communication with a range of people on a range of matters; constructively manages barriers to communication; evidences ability to develop and maintain communication in difficult situations and on sensitive matters, modifying responses where necessary.
- **People management:** Engages effectively with other team members and with opportunities to influence work objectives and planning; plans and coordinates work, responding well to changing circumstances and multiple priorities; provides effective and appropriate support to others, recognising individual needs and circumstances

Person Specification

E = Essential

D = Desirable

Knowledge

- E – awareness of the importance of confidentiality
- E – self-motivation, the ability to work in a team
- E – good computer skills

Skills

- E – excellent interpersonal communications skills
- E – excellent oral communication skills
- E – excellent written communication skills
- E – excellent organisational skills
- E – qualitative interviewing or transferable skills relevant to this
- E – qualitative data analysis skills

Experience

- E – lived experience of personally using acute or secondary mental health services
- E – working with diverse groups of people
- E – disclosure of own mental health problems within workplace
- D – working with people with psychosis and severe mental illness
- E – mental health research experience
- D – use of NVivo qualitative data analysis software
- D – preparing and writing up research findings for publication

Qualifications

- E – Undergraduate qualification in a relevant subject and excellent academic record.
- D – post-graduate qualification or equivalent research experience.