



UNIVERSITY
of York

SSCR Impact & Policy Associate

Department: School for Business and Society (SBS)

Hours of work: Full time | 37 hours | 1 FTE

Contract type: Fixed term to 30 April 2029

Salary: Grade 6 | £38,448 - £46,970 per year



Introduction

The NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR) is a partnership of leading centres of academic social care research in England: the Universities of Sheffield, Leeds, Leeds Beckett, York, Bristol and Birmingham, and the London School of Economics and Political Science. The current five-year phase commenced in May 2024, and the School is led by the University of York. The role is situated in the OSCAR research group, within the School for Business and Society. With a total School budget of around £40 million, SSCR's mission is to develop the evidence base to inform and improve adult social care policy and practice in England by commissioning and conducting internationally leading research.

Central to this mission is ensuring that SSCR research is accessible, used and able to demonstrate real-world influence. SSCR is therefore seeking a Policy and Impact Fellow: a new role combining rapid evidence synthesis and policy analysis with knowledge brokering, stakeholder engagement and support for the School's research impact function.

The postholder will work closely with the SSCR Director, Programme Manager, Executive Group, funded researchers and member institutions. They will deliver defined policy and impact projects, support responses to requests from DHSC, NIHR and other stakeholders, and help ensure that opportunities for SSCR research to inform policy and practice are identified and acted upon.

This is an excellent opportunity for an applied researcher or policy professional who is skilled at turning complex research into clear, timely and useful outputs, and who wishes to develop a career at the interface of research, policy, practice and impact in adult social care.

Main purpose of the role

- To assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects.
- To conduct policy-oriented research and analysis, and produce research-based, policy-relevant outputs, that support SSCR engagement with policymakers, funders and the adult social care sector.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- Support the operational implementation of the SSCR impact strategy and reporting framework, working within the strategic direction set by the Director and Management Group.
- Provide structured guidance to funded researchers and member institution leads on impact planning, evidencing and delivery.
- Support the operational delivery of SSCR impact funding calls.
- Contribute to annual reporting and formal funder returns in relation to impact, and to SSCR operational planning.

Policy

- Lead the delivery of defined policy projects.
- Conduct rigorous, research-based and policy-oriented analysis, including rapid evidence reviews, in collaboration with SSCR colleagues and partner institutions.
- Prepare and deliver a range of research-based, policy-relevant outputs, including briefing notes, policy reports and presentations.
- Support SSCR engagement with policy stakeholders, including the Department of Health and Social Care, NIHR, sector bodies and related policy research units, building networks that support the translation of SSCR research into policy and practice.
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including conference organisation, and the development of promotional or educational material including website maintenance and development.
- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings.
- All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others, and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety & Emergency Procedures.

Please note this role has an expectation of on site working approximately 2 days a week.

The above list of duties is not exhaustive and is subject to change. The post holder may be required to undertake other duties within the scope and grading of the post.

Person specification

	Essential / Desirable
Qualifications	
Undergraduate degree in a social science or related subject	Essential
PhD in an applied social science relevant to social care/ social policy or equivalent substantial professional experience in evidence synthesis, policy research, knowledge mobilisation or research impact at a national organisation.	Essential
Knowledge	
Knowledge of applied social care research to engage in high quality research	Essential
Knowledge of methods for evidence synthesis, critical appraisal and policy analysis, and of their appropriate use and limitations.	Essential
Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals	Essential
Understanding of the adult social care sector and its policy landscape in England	Essential
Understanding of research impact and knowledge mobilisation, including how research can inform policy, practice and public debate.	Essential
Knowledge of NIHR, DHSC or the wider health and care research funding environment.	Desirable
Skills, abilities and competencies	
Highly developed oral communication, presentation and facilitation skills, with the ability to adapt style and content for different audiences and contexts.	Essential
Excellent written communication skills, including the ability to produce concise, accessible and policy-relevant briefings, reports and presentations for non-academic audiences.	Essential
Ability to locate, appraise, synthesise and interpret complex evidence rapidly and accurately, and to communicate uncertainty and limitations clearly.	Essential
Ability to build trusted relationships and broker knowledge across academic, policy, practice, public and third-sector communities.	Essential
Ability to plan, prioritise and deliver several distinct pieces of work to deadline, including responding flexibly to urgent requests while maintaining quality.	Essential

Ability to gather, organise, analyse and report information about research engagement, uptake and impact.	Essential
Ability to take responsibility for the delivery of distinct pieces of work, e.g. leading a defined project	Essential
Experience	
Experience of undertaking evidence synthesis, evidence reviews, policy analysis, research appraisal or closely related applied research activity.	Essential
Experience of producing policy-relevant or practice-facing outputs, such as evidence briefings, reports, consultation responses, toolkits or presentations.	Essential
Experience of engaging policymakers, practitioners, sector organisations, the public or people who use services in relation to research or evidence.	Essential
Experience of supporting research impact, knowledge mobilisation, research uptake or impact reporting.	Essential
Experience of convening or facilitating workshops, roundtables or stakeholder events.	Desirable
Experience of working across multiple stakeholders or institutions	Desirable
Personal attributes	
Attention to detail and commitment to high quality	Essential
Collaborative ethos	Essential
Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)	Essential
Positive attitude to colleagues and students	Essential
Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions	Essential
Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes	Essential
Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills	Essential