CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Education and Social Work
Grade:	Research Fellow, Grade 7
School:	Education and Social Work
Location:	Essex House
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator (Lisa Holmes, Professor of Applied Social Science) through to Head of School
Direct reports:	n/a
Key contacts:	Members of CIRCY and CSWIR research centres, members of faculty within the School and University.
Role description:	The Research Fellow will join the NIHR-funded LIMES (Lives behind the numbers, and the numbers of IMpacted livES) project, a collaboration between the University of Sussex, Durham University and Kingston University examining the implementation, effectiveness and economic consequences of Contextual Safeguarding across England. The postholder will work closely with Professor Lisa Holmes and project partners to undertake the economic evaluation of Contextual Safeguarding.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 Contribute to the delivery of the LIMES project, ensuring that agreed objectives and milestones are achieved.

4.2 Design, undertake and support quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research activities.

4.3 Collect, manage and analyse data relating to the implementation and costs of Contextual Safeguarding approaches.

4.4 Contribute to the development and application of micro-costing and economic evaluation methodologies.

4.5 Prepare reports, presentations, briefing papers and academic publications arising from the project.

4.6 Contribute to the dissemination of research findings to academic, policy and practice audiences.

4.7 Liaise with local authority partners, practitioners, co-researchers and other stakeholders participating in the study.

4.8 Work collaboratively with researchers across the University of Sussex, Durham University and Kingston University.

4.9 Support activities that enhance the impact of research findings on policy and practice relating to extra-familial harm and children's social care.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.

3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Hold a relevant Doctorate in social work, social policy, applied social science, economics, public policy, psychology, sociology or a closely related discipline, or near completion with submission anticipated before the start of the appointment.

2. Experience of designing and conducting high-quality social science research.

3. Strong quantitative analytical skills and/or experience of mixed-methods research.

4. Experience of engaging with external stakeholders, including policy, practice or community partners.

5. Knowledge of and experience of working, or researching, the children's social care system within the UK.

6. Commitment to producing research that informs policy and practice and improves outcomes for children and young people.

7. Rigorous attention to detail.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

3. Experience of economic evaluation, cost analysis or micro-costing methodologies.

4. Experience of working with local authorities or other public sector organisations.

5. Experience of involving practitioners, young people, families or people with lived experience in research.