

The NIHR HSCWRU Health and Social Care Workforce Panel

Role description and application process

Background

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has launched 20 Policy Research Units, to ensure that the government and arms-length bodies have the best possible information and evidence available when making policy decisions about health and social care. The units are considered to be an exemplar of good practice in government. They offer advice to policy makers and analysts on the evidence base and options for policy development and provide both a resource for long term research and a rapid-response service to inform current and emerging policy needs.

"In the NIHR, we have a range of ways to make sure that health and care research benefits patients and the public. The NIHR's new Policy Research Units are designed to provide strong evaluation of policy. This helps government and related organisations to be able to act on the latest evidence when making decisions about health and social care that could impact us all"

Professor Lucy Chappell, DHSC Chief Scientific Advisor & NIHR Chief Executive

About the HSCWRU

The **NIHR Health & Social Care Workforce Research Unit (HSCWRU)**, led by *Professor Annette Boaz*, has been recommissioned to continue its previous work in addressing workforce challenges for policy makers across health and social care. The Policy Research Unit (PRU), which started in January 2024, aids the **Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)** in responding to its workforce priorities by providing research evidence of the highest quality.

The team consists of HSCWRU researchers and King's College London (KCL) colleagues from the *Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care, and King's Business School*, as well as from the *Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)*. The Unit has a Public Contributor Involvement and Engagement Advisory Group (PCIEAG), comprising ten people with lived experience. For more information see: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/hscwru/about/involvement>

Person Specification

The Unit's work covers England therefore **applications to the workforce panel are only sought from people working in England.**

You must be interested in contributing to research that explores policy related questions about this vital workforce, which includes social workers, care workers, GPs, community and hospital health professionals.

We are looking for panel members from across the health and social care workforce to bring a range of workplace perspectives, experiences and skills and practical experience in their field. We are interested in involving both currently and recently registered and unregistered members. Individuals working in any role and at any grade within health and social care service are encouraged to apply.

Duration of the role

The appointment to the Workforce Panel is for a term of four years, 2025-2028. The initial appointment will be for one year and then confirmed for the rest of the term of the Policy Research Unit Contract (January 2025 to December 2028). Members are free to withdraw at any time by written notice to the Workforce Panel Chair.

NIHR Policy Research Unit in Health and Social Care Workforce Panel Role Description

It is expected that Members will:

- Support the Unit to undertake good quality, relevant research that produces useful evidence by drawing on experiences of health and social care service delivery and management.
- Be engaged as individuals or small groups relating to particular Unit projects (rather than through formal panel meetings). There may be opportunities to get more involved in particular pieces of work relevant to expertise, but this would not be a requirement.
- Undertake activities such as commenting on project proposals and research questions during initial scoping, helping to provide context for preliminary results and reviewing outputs and help share and disseminate good ideas and practice emerging from the Unit's work.
- Act as a 'critical friend' providing challenge to the work the Unit undertakes.
- Highlight potential gaps in research.
- Encourage the active involvement of the workforce in all the Unit's work.
- Be profiled on the Unit's website, as this is a public facing role.
- Uphold King's College London's commitment to recognising and improving diversity and inclusion in research.

HSCWRU will provide:

- Meetings will be mostly online but, when necessary, there will be reimbursement for in-person meetings for travel (at economical rates) and associated expenses in accordance with KCL expenses policy, following completion of KCL expense forms and provision of receipts.
- Induction and any further learning to enable members to fulfil their role.
- Support from the Director, Annette Boaz and the Workforce Panel Chair, Lyn Romeo and/or relevant HSCWRU staff.

Application Process

Members will be selected using only the application form and a short CV (two pages maximum). If you would like to have an initial conversation about the role before applying, please email janet.j.robinson@kcl.ac.uk to request a telephone call. There will be a launch event to welcome new members on 10th December 2024 at 3.30-5.30pm in London.

If you wish to apply, please complete [the application form](#) and return it with your CV to: janet.j.robinson@kcl.ac.uk