



**Early Career Researchers**  
for the  
**Organisation and Research Capacity Group (ORCA)**  
**Applied Research Collaboration, Kent Surrey and Sussex**  
**(ARC KSS)**

The Applied Research Collaboration Kent Surrey Sussex (ARC KSS) is inviting two Early Career Researchers to become members of ORCA, a group which will lead and advise the ARC KSS on the operational and strategic direction for capacity building within research across the region. As part of the Workforce Capacity Building workstream at ARC KSS, ORCA will, together with other key capacity building stakeholders in the region, act as a catalyst to build and grow a sustainable research workforce with expertise within the clinical as well as academic environment.

**Background**

The [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\)](#) is the nation's largest funder of health and care research and provides the people, facilities and technology that enables research to thrive. [NIHR Applied Research Collaborations \(ARCs\)](#) support applied health and care research that responds to, and meets, the needs of local populations and local health and care systems. It is a collaboration of local providers of NHS services, local providers of care services, NHS commissioners, local authorities, universities, private companies, charities and the public.

The NIHR ARC Kent Surrey Sussex (ARC KSS) is one of 15 ARCs across England, led by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Professor Stephen Peckham at the University of Kent. In response to identification of regional need ARC KSS will focus its research on four key themes:

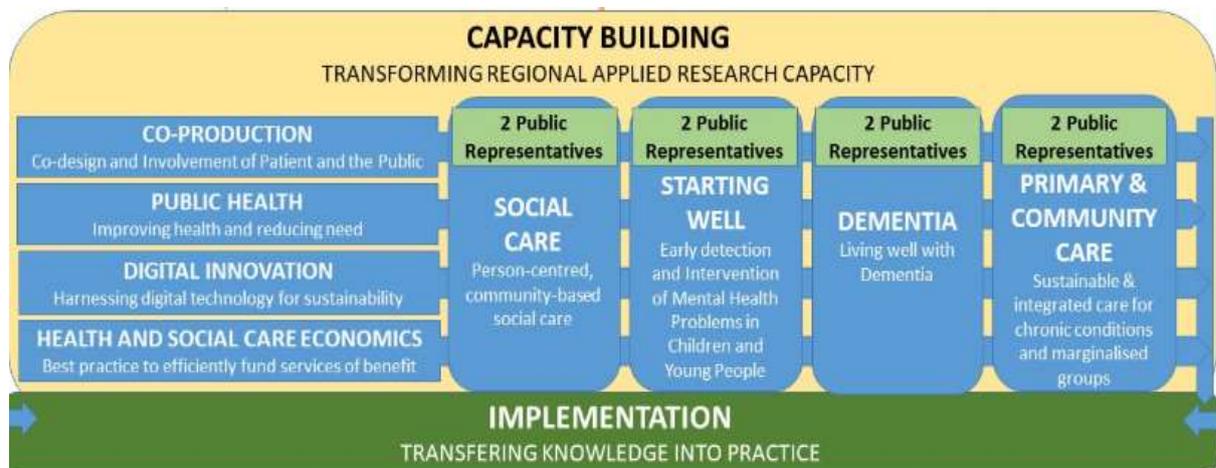
1. Social Care
2. Starting well: Early detection and Intervention of Mental Health Problems in Children and Adolescents
3. Primary and Community Health Services
4. Living Well with Dementia

And four cross-cutting themes:

1. Co-production –all our research is co-designed with local communities
2. Public Health: Supporting Wellbeing across the Lifespan – we have a focus on prevention
3. Digital Innovation – we harness its potential for a sustainable health system
4. Health and Social Care Economics – ensuring value for money

[ARC KSS](#) is also the national NIHR ARC lead for social care. This means that we are committed to delivering national impact in social care through strategic direction, driving collaborative work across NIHR ARCs in England and maximising efficiency and impact for the benefit of patients and the public, health and care services and broader economic gain.

We provide support to ensure all our research engages with local communities, patients and the wider public through Involvement, Engagement and Participation.



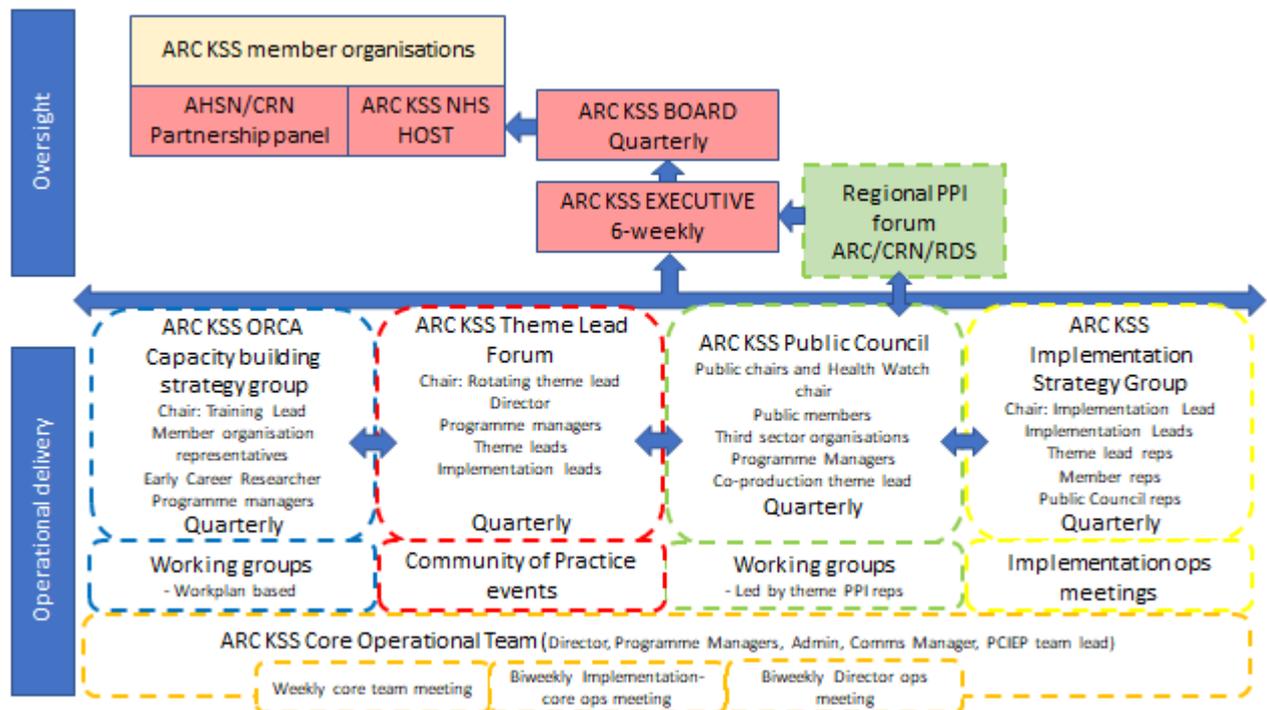
Alongside supporting research in these cross-cutting themes, ARC KSS also acts to increase the rate at which research findings are implemented into practice. Critical to delivering this goal is to support capacity building within the research community locally. It is this core activity that the ORCA Group will be overseeing.

### **The Organisation and Research CApacity (ORCA) group.**

We are looking for two Early Career Researchers with either a Health or Social Care (including social work) professional background to become a member of this group.

We welcome health or social care professionals from any discipline including nurses, allied health care professionals, social care professionals or social workers.

Meetings will be held quarterly. Currently these are online but in the future (COVID-19 restrictions dependent) attendance in person is preferred with teleconferencing/virtual arrangements if necessary. The meeting is chaired by the ARC KSS Workforce Capacity Building Lead (currently Prof.Sally Kendall, University of Kent) with members representing Universities across Kent, Surrey and Sussex, local Health Trusts, Local Authorities, Health Commissioners, Health Education England, Clinical Research Network and local training academies.



### The key responsibilities of ORCA are:

1. To provide oversight and leadership to support the ARC KSS in bringing together local universities, health and social care and other appropriate organisations in order to enhance research capability and capacity across the region.
2. To provide leadership and advice for the capacity building elements of the ARC KSS programme including guiding the overall vision.
3. To advise on capacity building activities regionally and to support the ARC KSS Capacity building lead, Professor Sally Kendall in accordance with the goals and objectives for ARC KSS.
4. To learn from good practice across the region.
5. To use a transformational thinking approach that research facing health care

systems will emerge from a strong workforce and leadership that encourages research awareness across all staff, where there are identified leaders to support and enable research activity.

6. To ensure activity regionally is recorded, evaluated and any learning gained from activity is used to support future development of capacity building.
7. To ensure regional capacity building is informed by and meets the needs of the emerging bodies engaged in promoting integration of health and social care, in particular the Sustainability & Transformation Partnerships (STPs), Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), and Primary Care Networks (PCNs).
8. The Group will consider changes in the local commissioning and healthcare service landscape alongside existing research activity in order to ensure appropriate activities are invested in to support capacity building regionally.
9. To advise on and identify areas to work collaboratively across regional organisations and ARCs nationally to optimise opportunities available for capacity building.
10. To establish strong collaborative working across ARC KSS, HEE-KSS and the CRN to provide funding to support developments.
11. The Group will advise on additional funding opportunities that may support capacity building across the ARC KSS region and how best these may be obtained.

## **The Role of Early Career Research Member**

We are looking for health or social care professionals who

- have begun to establish a research career within their fields of interest
- have knowledge of some of the opportunities for research training regionally
- have research experience and undertaken some form of research training, e.g. Masters, PhD, been involved in research projects within their job role or contributed to the development of a research project
- are able to communicate effectively with a wide range of people
- can demonstrate a strong commitment to equality and diversity
- understands the need for confidentiality where appropriate
- able to attend meetings during the working day 3 times per year at venues across Kent, Surrey and Sussex for a minimum two-year term
- are able to identify individual training and development needs to help undertake this role
- work for a health or social care organisation within Kent, Surrey or Sussex

## **Support and reimbursement**

Undertaking this role will provide invaluable early career experience of being part of a strategic multi organisational group, where there is the opportunity to provide input on what is helpful and critical for supporting research in service provider

organisations. It also provides useful networking opportunities and experience for inclusion on future CV's.

Reasonable travel expenses will be paid, but no reimbursement will be made for time. You will need to have permission from your employer or line manager; however your time could be included in your organisation's ARC KSS co-funding contributions.

### **How to apply**

If you wish to apply for this role please submit a short letter of application detailing

- Your professional background
- Any professional or person experience that may contribute to this role
- Your research experience
- OR a CV if available.

Applications should be sent to Debbie Hayward at: [D.J.Hayward@kent.ac.uk](mailto:D.J.Hayward@kent.ac.uk)  
Closing date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The next ORCA meeting is on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30-4.30pm. (Due to Covid 19 restrictions this will be held via Microsoft Teams). It would be helpful if the successful candidate was available to attend this meeting (although not mandatory).

Any queries regarding this application can be sent to Debbie at the above email address.

Many thanks for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.