



Public Advisors to the NIHR ARC KSS Board who reside in Sussex

The Applied Research Collaboration Kent Surrey Sussex (ARC KSS) is inviting people (public, patients, service users, carers) to become Public Advisors on our Board who reside in *Sussex*. You will join another 2 Public Advisors from Kent and Surrey who are already members.

With the recent launch of the [UK Standards for Public Involvement](#) this is a good opportunity to contribute towards embedding effective and innovative public involvement in the newly formed ARC KSS and have a say in our health and social care research programme decisions.

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.

The NIHR ARC Kent Surrey Sussex (ARC KSS) is one of 15 ARCs across England, part of a £135 million investment by the NIHR to improve the health and care of patients and the public. Led by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Professor Stephen Peckham at the University of Kent, the ARC KSS will focus on regional challenges including:

- Significant social deprivation, mainly located in our coastal town
- Numerous GP practice closures resulting in a high GP to patient ratio
- Higher than average children in care, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and young people with self-harm and emotional problems
- A higher proportion of older people
- The highest concentration of people with dementia in the UK

Each NIHR ARC is made up of local providers of NHS services, local providers of care services, NHS commissioners, local authorities, universities, private companies, charities and the public. These collaborations work together to conduct high quality, generalizable, applied health and care research that addresses the specific health or care issues in their region. NIHR ARCs also act to close the second translational gap and increase the rate at which research findings are implemented into practice.

We will focus our research within four core 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.

The Board

We are seeking to recruit 1 member of the public ('Public Advisor') who has a keen interest in health and social care related research to the ARC KSS Board. We appreciate diverse representation and encourage applicants from BAME communities, under 25's, carers, LGBTQ+, people with a disability.

The Board meets 3 times per year, the venue for which is rotated across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. It is independently chaired by Prof Sir Nick Black. Members include higher education institutes, sustainable transformation partnerships, Academic Health Science Network, Clinical Research Network, primary care networks, public health, local authorities, NHS, public advisors.

The Board is accountable to the host Trust (Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) and, through them to the NIHR.

The ARC KSS Board responsibilities include:

- Provision of guidance on the overall vision of the ARC KSS
- Overseeing and ensuring appropriate governance and management of the ARC KSS
- Overseeing and monitoring of the ARC KSS activities against its objectives
- Reviewing performance and recommending appropriate actions to ensure long term sustainability of the ARC KSS
- Ensuring the work of the ARC KSS 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 (STP's), Integrated Care Services (ICSs) and Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

- Advising on and assisting with the interface with the National Institute for Health Research
- Ensuring that progress reports and budgetary information is available as necessary to the appropriate governing bodies of the ARC KSS partners
- Reviewing annually the ARC KSS risk register and advising accordingly

The Role of Public Advisor

We are looking for people over the age of 18 to become Public Advisors on our Board who can:

- Be a visible leader of public and community engagement, involvement and participation
- Have some understanding / experience of applied health and social care research and / or developing services
- Can operate effectively as a team member but willing to challenge where appropriate
- Understand the broader range of patient and public perspectives beyond their own experience with an ability to be objective
- Willingness and ability to read Board papers which will include financial and activity reports
- Communicate effectively with a wide range of people
- Demonstrate strong commitment to equality and diversity
- Understand the need for confidentiality where appropriate
- Complete a declaration of interest
- Attend meetings during the working day 3 times per year at venues across Kent, Surrey and Sussex for a minimum two-year term
- Access to email and internet (preferred but not essential)
- Identify individual training and development needs to help undertake this role

Support and reimbursement

Support and an induction will be provided by the Programme Manager and PCIEP leads.

You will be reimbursed for your time taking part in Board meetings, travel expenses and/or other expenses incurred as part of your work for the Board in line with the ARC KSS' host organisation's Service User and Carer Payment Policy.

How to apply

Please submit a letter of application by email by 29th May 2020 to:

ARCKentSurreySussex@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk.

Your letter should cover the following and be no longer than 2 sides of A4:

- ✓ Why you are interested in this role as Public Advisor for the ARC KSS Board
- ✓ How you meet the Public Advisor attributes
- ✓ Support and training that you may need
- ✓ That you reside in Sussex
- ✓ How we can contact you

For more information or informal conversation please contact Pippa Shaw, Public & Community Involvement, Engagement and Participation Team Lead at:
ARCKentSurreySussex@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk. or 0300 304 1846.

<https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/research-arc-kss>

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