



# Job Description and Person Specification

## Summary

<b>Job title:</b>	Senior Mental Health Research Leader
<b>Faculty:</b>	RIF Research Assistants – All Facilities
<b>Reference:</b>	EHP0097-1124
<b>Grade and Salary:</b>	Competitive Salary
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Fixed Term for 5 Years
<b>Hours:</b>	Full Time (37 hours per week)
<b>Location:</b>	Ormskirk



## **About the Role**

The post holder will lead an NIHR funded Mental Health Research Leaders Award titled:

### **Improving sustainable access to high-quality primary and community care mental health care interventions: an asset-based community development approach (ISAAC-ABCD)**

The Northwest region of England faces considerable mental health challenges among children and young people (CYP), with anxiety and depression rates exceeding national averages. Hospital admissions for mental health conditions among under-18s and self-harm rates in the Northwest are amongst the highest in the country.

The 'Better Mental Health' review by Edge Hill University reveals an inadequate response to CYP mental ill health in the Northwest. Primary and secondary care services are overwhelmed, and efforts to improve community mental health services for CYP are hindered by financial constraints and service cuts. The effectiveness of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, which leverages local strengths for sustainable community development, remains unclear for CYP with mental health issues, particularly in accessing primary and community care.

This project aims to strengthen existing CYP mental health research using a team science approach to define the roles needed for an effective mental health research group. The group will include diverse health professionals focusing on ABCD approaches.

The long-term vision is to establish a Centre of Excellence for mental health asset-based community interventions, which will serve as a hub for pioneering mental health interventions, providing essential support to tackle complex mental health challenges in the North West and beyond. The goal is to develop sustainable, community-centred solutions that can be replicated and scaled, significantly improving mental health outcomes. By strengthening research, fostering community involvement, and forming strategic partnerships, this initiative aims to address the pressing mental health challenges faced by CYP in the North West, ultimately creating a robust framework for better mental health care and support.

Future goals include developing an NIHR Mental Health Research Group application, focusing on the nature of asset-based interventions, access to these interventions, their descriptive epidemiology, cost-effectiveness, potential to mitigate health and social care inequalities, and implementation and sustainability strategies embedded in local NHS care pathways and work at scale.

The Senior Mental Health Research Leader will lead strategic expansion into focused digital, psychological, epidemiological and health economic research related to asset-based mental health interventions. The Leader will form a team which will allow deeper learning to take place with greater breadth and depth, leading to more impactful research.

In partnership with the Mental Health Research for Innovation Centre (M-RIC), a collaboration between Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Liverpool & Manchester, the Leader will focus on developing innovative approaches to mental health in the region. This partnership aims to improve access to services for those in need and to produce impactful research benefiting local and international communities.

The role will also involve collaboration with Cheshire & Merseyside ICB, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, the Deep End GP Cheshire and Mersey project, St Helens, Knowsley and Wigan Local Authorities and VCFSE organisations. This group will support equitable integrated care for CYP with anxiety and depression in the North West and beyond.

The Leader will work with the NIHR North West Coast ARC Methodological Innovation, Development, Adaptation & Support (MIDAS) groups to methodologically support the development of this team.

The Leader will be supported through the Health Research Institute (HRI), that draws on a diverse range of academic perspectives beyond those traditionally associated with health research.

The Mental Health Leadership Award will involve conference attendance and you will receive mentorship, leadership training, and methods support.

We will encourage those appointed to take part in the University of Oxford primary care Leadership Programme and the NIHR Academy Leaders Support and Development Programme. We will ensure the Leader benefits from mentorship and strategic guidance from the internal and external members of the research team, notably Prof Greg Irving as Director of the Edge Hill HRI, Prof Nusrat Hussain as Professor of Psychiatry at The University of Manchester and the Director of Mersey Care Mental Health Research for Innovation Centre, and Prof Mark Gabbay as Professor of Primary Care & Mental Health at the University of Liverpool and Director of NIHR North-West Coast Applied Research Collaboration.

**Where merited, we may appoint a candidate as a Reader (Grade 11 on the University's Single Pay Spine), or to a professorial role (up to Grade A-5 on the University's professorial pay spine), or to a senior management role (on the University's Senior Pay Spine)**

## **Reward & Benefits**

We want you to feel happy when you come to work and proud when you go home.

From the moment you join us you have the opportunity to enhance your skills. We offer various routes for progression, a range of specialist development sessions and academic development opportunities along with an award winning and comprehensive staff health & wellbeing programme (HR Excellence Awards 2017). This means you will receive a full academic induction, be enrolled if appropriate on our PGCTHE, benefit from the Edge Hill University CPD scheme (UKPSF) and our annual University Learning and Teaching Day all to support your professional development. You may also benefit from joining one of our free evening foreign language classes.

This is just a taste of what we are able to offer you at Edge Hill University.

## **Job Description**

### **Grade 11**

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Responsible for the effective management of the NIHR Mental Health Leadership Award, awarded to EHU, focusing on children and young people.
2. Sustaining a leading research programme, which includes; making decisions regarding which projects to pursue, when to make research funding applications (and to which funder), actively developing and submitting competitive applications for external funding, managing the writing-up and dissemination of own research.
3. Maintain a regular output of high-quality peer-reviewed mental health research which is published in monographs, edited books or leading journals and disseminated via other media as appropriate to the discipline.
4. Play a leading role in the formulation of mental health research strategy to support the best possible outcome in the next Research Excellence Framework (REF).
5. Support the development of a dynamic and sustainable mental health research environment within the department to support the highest levels of engagement with research by all staff and students and to provide an attractive environment for external partners.
6. Establish the leadership of a mental health research team, including supervision of research students and staff. Where required, you will effectively manage research budgets according to funders and University requirements.
7. Represent the University through presentation at national and international events and participate in effective mental health research networks with international reach to address key research questions in your field.
8. Contribute to undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching (lecturing or other teaching formats) across the faculty, as deemed appropriate and in line with your research commitments. This will include supporting the Universities NIHR Academy Programme, relating to mental health research.
9. Commit to providing research leadership both within and outside your department with respect to your area of expertise, and the professional development of others. This might include mentoring, coaching, contribution to professional development events.
10. Take an appropriately active role in Faculty / Departmental-level strategic planning and contribute to the University's strategic planning process.

11. Actively involved in Faculty or University administrative functions including convening, leading and participating in relevant committees (i.e. research/ethics committees) and working groups, which approve and make recommendations for action in relation to research and research-related activities.
12. Carry out any other duties associated with the area as judged appropriate by the line manager.

Where members of the recruiting panel are satisfied that a candidate can demonstrate some or all of the following, **consideration will be given to making a professorial appointment** (with appropriate adjustments to the role).

- A track record of externally recognised research excellence
- An externally recognised record of sustained innovation and excellence in teaching including contribution to the advancement of learning, the development of the subject and to pioneering work in course development
- A sustained record of enterprise and the successful commercialisation of high quality research and IP leading to patents, spin out companies or a body of work which influences policy decisions
- External national and international recognition.

**In addition to the above all Edge Hill staff are required to:**

1. Adhere to all Edge Hill's policies and procedures, including Equality and Diversity and Health and Safety
2. To demonstrate integrity and ethical conduct as identified in our Code of Practice for the Conduct of Research.
3. Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons
4. Undertake appropriate training and development as required
5. Participate in Edge Hill's Performance Review and Development Scheme
6. Adhere to Edge Hill University's environmental policy and guidelines and undertake tasks in a sustainable manner
7. Demonstrate excellent Customer Care in dealing with all internal and external stakeholders

## Person Specification

Please note that applications will be assessed against the Person Specification using the following criteria, therefore, applicants should provide evidence of their ability to meet all criteria. Where a supporting statement is indicated you will be asked to provide a statement of how you meet this criterion within the application form.

*Methods of Assessment include Application Form (A), Supporting Statement (S), Interview (I), Test (T) & Presentation (P).*

## Qualifications

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Essential or Desirable Criteria</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>
PhD or equivalent in relevant discipline	Essential	Application
Membership of professional body	Essential	Application

## Knowledge & Skills

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Essential or Desirable Criteria</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>
Credible professional standing within the academic community, evidenced by peer review research outputs, grants, invitations to speak	Essential	Application & Supporting Statement
Demonstrable and effective leadership skills (such as influencing, communication and engaging others) applied to research leadership roles	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview & Presentation
Very high level of effectiveness of own teaching, using your research to inform teaching and provide a high-quality student experience	Desirable	Supporting Statement
Ability to provide research leadership within the department, faculty and at University level	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview, Presentation & Test

## Experience

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Essential or Desirable Criteria</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>
Established track record of regular output of highest quality published research	Essential	Supporting Statement & Interview
Able to demonstrate a high level of achievement in research with strong and growing reputation which is recognised internationally	Essential	Supporting Statement & Interview
Experience of undertaking research leadership roles	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview & Presentation
Success in grant activity and obtaining research funding, particularly from one or more of the following: industry, international sources, research councils, major charities	Desirable	Supporting Statement & Interview
Effective record of successful supervision of research fellows/assistants and students to doctoral level	Essential	Supporting Statement & Interview
Evidence of engagement with the wider academic community, such as committee/editorial board membership, external roles	Essential	Supporting Statement & Interview



## Candidate Guidance and How to Apply

At Edge Hill University we value the benefits a rich and diverse workforce brings to our community and therefore welcome applications from all sections of society.

For informal enquiries about this vacancy, you may wish to contact: Greg Irving, Senior Lecturer in Medical Education at [Irvingg@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:Irvingg@edgehill.ac.uk).

When you are ready to start the formal application process, please [visit our Current Vacancies website](#), search for the role you wish to apply for, and select the 'Apply Online' button at the bottom of the job advert. The online application form can be completed in stages and can be revisited at any time. The form automatically saves as you enter your information, and you can move backwards and forwards between individual form sections at any time prior to application submission. Help is available at each stage to guide you through the form. Before final submission, you can preview your application and can then choose to refine or submit the form.

As part of your application, you will be asked to provide details of two referees. Please see our application form for guidance on how to nominate your referees.

You are able to upload a CV to the application form to supplement your application and supporting statements.

Please refer to the advert for the closing date for this vacancy, all applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on this date. Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive this email.

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. We try our best to inform all applicants within two working weeks following the closing date.

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to pre-employment clearance. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity and evidence of your qualifications and professional memberships as referenced as essential or desirable in the person specification for this role. You will also be asked to complete onboarding forms including a pre-employment health questionnaire to support the University make appropriate adjustments to support you in the role. The University will also contact the referees you have nominated. Please note that you may be asked for alternative or additional referees as we seek references that cover your previous three years of employment history. Following successful completion of pre-employment clearances (including an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, as relevant, please see job advert) a start date will then be arranged with you.