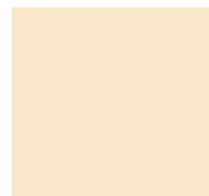


Senior Research Officer
Permanent
Full time or 0.8 FTE
Glasgow, with travel In
Scotland & UK
occasionally



Thank you for your interest in joining the superb team at the Mental Health Foundation.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a growing organisation with an urgent and vital mission of prevention and promotion in mental health. For 70 years, we have been pushing forward the frontiers in our understanding of mental health. Interest has never been greater, and we have huge opportunities to make strides towards our vision of good mental health for all.

To achieve that vision, we are embarking on our next chapter with a new strategy for 2020-2025. We have the financial resources to achieve a transformation in our reach and impact. To do that, we need to build an organisation that lives its values and has a strong and diverse team that is dynamic, energetic and committed to working together.

We work to manage and prevent mental health problems. More resources are being dedicated to services and treatment which we welcome but the prevention of poor mental health now stands as one of the defining social issues of our time.

There is much more to do, and we are looking for an experienced Senior Research Officer to join our team and enable the Mental Health Foundation to be the most effective it can be.

In this document we present information about the Foundation and about this role. If you are up for the challenge, I hope you will get in touch.

Kind Regards



Mark Rowland, CEO





WHO WE ARE

Our vision is good mental health for all.
The Mental Health Foundation works to prevent mental health problems. We will drive change towards a mentally healthy society for all, and support communities, families and individuals to live mentally healthier lives, with a particular focus on those at greatest risk. The Foundation is the home of Mental Health Awareness Week.

Making Prevention Happen

Since 1949, the Mental Health Foundation has been the UK's leading charity for everyone's mental health. With prevention at the heart of what we do, we aim to find and address the sources of mental health problems so that people and communities can thrive.

The Foundation aims to promote good mental health for all through research, policy, innovation, and campaigning.

Our approach:

Tell the world

We publish studies and reports on what protects mental health and the causes of poor mental health and how to tackle them.

Find solutions

We test and evaluate the best approaches to improving mental health in communities and then roll them out as widely as possible.

Inform and empower

We give advice to millions of people on mental health. We are most well-known for running Mental Health Awareness Week across the UK each year.

Change policy and practice

We propose solutions and campaign for change to address the underlying cause of poor mental health.



ABOUT THE ROLE

Place of work:	30 George Square, Glasgow G2 1EG
Grade:	C2, point 5-8
Salary:	Starting at £35,143 rising to £39,000 Pro-Rata
Contract type:	Permanent
Hours:	0.8 FTE / 28 hrs per week or Full Time /35 hrs per week
Directorate:	Scotland and Northern Ireland / Research and Policy
Reports to:	Head of Evidence and Impact
Responsible for:	Researchers/Assistants/Consultants as required
Budget responsibility:	Project budgets

Job purpose

This is an exciting new role within our new Evidence and Impact Department for Scotland and Northern Ireland. You will work on strategically important reviews and studies to help us deliver our 5-year strategy for prevention. As a senior researcher, you will work flexibly with colleagues in research, public policy and programmes and with external partners including universities, government and community organisations.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Strategic

- Lead strategically important research projects on time and to budget.
- Take a leadership role (with colleagues in research, public policy and programmes) to produce high quality evidence to inform action and evaluate impact.
- Work in collaboration with academic partners to undertake research, knowledge exchange and, where relevant, submission of significant funding proposals.
- Share research findings to a variety of stakeholders through reports, peer reviewed articles, presentations, media and social media.
- Support the Senior Management Team in Scotland to drive forward the Foundation's Strategic Plan and Research Strategy.

Managerial

- Manage and support Research Officers, Assistants and Consultants as required.
- Build and maintain excellent and collegiate working relationships with key staff within Scottish and Northern Irish Universities, civil society and the public sector.
- To contribute to ensuring financial procedures are followed professionally

Operational

- Undertake evidence reviews in key areas, including systematic literature reviews
- Design and implement research and evaluation projects using mixed methods (this may involve working on multiple projects).
- Ensure research is informed by the views and experiences of people with lived experience of mental health problems and achieves significant impact
- Ensure that Foundation policies and processes are followed in relation to project management, including budget management, GDPR and ethical research practices.
- Manage delegated budget and management accounts for own projects.

Communication

- Work with communication colleagues to help tell a persuasive story of evidence and research to engage and influence a diverse range of audiences.
- Act as a positive ambassador for the Foundation in all opportunities, including through presentations, teaching, media engagements and partnerships.
- Represent the Foundation at conferences, working groups, coalitions and at Parliament.
- Write content, articles and blogs on key issues and help in the development of external facing print and digital material.
- Present and disseminate research including written reports, academic publications, and presentations to achieve policy and practice change.

General

- Promote and support the achievement of the Foundation's mission, goals and values.
- Maintain a high standard of probity in professional, personnel and financial matters, maintaining good relations with colleagues and external partners and to act in accordance with the foundation's Code of Conduct and Dignity at Work policy
- Uphold and promote the Foundation's commitment to equality and diversity and the value of lived experience.
- Have due regard to safeguarding and health and safety issues for self, wider team and research participants.
- To undertake any other duties as may reasonably be required.

This job description is not contractual and is liable to change over time.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Skills and Experience

Essential

- Skilled in conducting evidence/literature reviews.
- Ability to design and lead mixed methods research studies.
- Interest in participatory research and commitment to the importance of lived experience voice in shaping and influencing research.
- Ability to write for - and present to - academic, policy and public audiences
- Evidence of successful communication skills with the ability to quickly build credibility and engage and influence a variety of professional and public audiences including senior levels of government and academia.
- Ability to develop a wide range of contacts and to develop and work in partnership internally and externally.
- Demonstrably efficient organisational skills, including the ability to use initiative, to prioritise workload and work quickly and effectively under pressure.
- Self-sufficient in use of research software
- Ability to understand and use relevant computing and IT systems and understand data protection legislation, data and document handling standards.

Desirable

- Knowledge and understanding of public mental health
- Able and willing to speak to media to communicate complex ideas clearly
- Ability to secure research funding, or contribute to research proposals

Qualification

Essential

- Relevant Masters' degree
- Substantial experience and/or training in research methodology

Desirable

- PhD or substantial equivalent research experience

REQUIREMENTS OF ALL ROLES AT THE MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

- Willingness to work flexibly to meet the reasonable needs of the Mental Health Foundation
- Commitment to working in accordance with the Mental Health Foundation's values
- Prepared on occasions to work unsocial hours
- Self-sufficient in use of information and communications technology
- Ability to self-manage a full and varied workload.