



## Frequently Asked Questions

# Theme Public Advisor

at the **Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex**

### What does this role involve?

1. Being part of our 'Public Involvement Network' or PIN – an enjoyable, supportive group of Theme Public Advisors who act as the public's eyes and ears into how we work.
2. Being part of one of our research Themes - you will become an active member of the Theme team, be invited to join meetings to discuss research that's happening and offer a public perspective on decisions around future Theme work.
3. You may be invited to join other meetings and working groups, which you can agree to or not depending on your interests and availability.

### How much time will I be expected to commit to this role?

We'd like you to join 4 meetings for the PIN Group and approximately 6-8 meetings for the Theme, per year. If you are asked to join in with other groups or meetings, you are interested and have time, then of course you can!

### What experience do I need to be considered?

We are keen that the voices of our local populations across Kent, Surrey and Sussex are clearly heard throughout our organisation and our research. We believe that everyone has something to offer. It is particularly helpful if you have lived experience of:

- being a user of, or have worked in, the health or social care services.
- caring for someone who has experienced the health or social care services in Kent, Surrey or Sussex
- have an interest in research and how it links into improving health outcomes for local people.
- live in Kent, Surrey or Sussex and are over 18 years old.

Please see the role description for more specific desirable criteria.

We appreciate diverse representation and encourage applications from ethnic minority and LGBTQIAP+ communities, under 25's, carers, people with a disability, neurodivergent people or people living with a long-term health condition.



### **Will meetings be online or in person?**

We cover a large geographical area (Kent, Surrey & Sussex), so much of our work is through the use of emails and online meetings such as Zoom or MS Teams. If you have difficulty with internet access or the use of technology we will endeavor to support you.

On occasions there are face to face events. If you are able to attend your travel expenses would be funded.

### **Will I be paid?**

This is not an employment role, however there is payment offered for your time involved. Payments come from different organisations within our collaboration and rates may vary. We would let you know the details in advance and help you with the claims process. Please be aware that, as these are official payments, there is a chance they may affect any benefits that you might be receiving, and we can discuss this with you individually.

### **Will there be any training or support?**

Support for this role is offered by the Public & Community, Involvement & Engagement (PCIE) Team.

New Public Advisors are offered an induction training session along with individual introductions to both the PIN and Theme teams, led by the PCIE coordinator.

There is the opportunity to attend voluntary drop-in support sessions, email and phone support, access to a shared online space for public members, and a regular ARC KSS newsletter to keep you up to date.

No training or previous experience is required for this role, however there is offer of online training if this is felt to be beneficial. We can work with you to identify any specific individual training needs.

### **Will there be any support with my physical or mental health disabilities?**

Yes. We are keen to ensure that no one is excluded from being involved in research for any disability and will work with you to find a way to overcome the barriers you may face. These may include physical disabilities such as; hearing impairment, visual loss or long-term health condition or mental health disabilities such as; autism, learning difficulty, dyslexia, anxiety.

You can also find more information on our website: <https://arc-kss.nihr.ac.uk/public-and-community-involvement/getting-involved>