



ARC KSS Fellowship Awards:

Adult Social Care 2024

Themed Project Fellowship

Building research careers across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Background:

The [Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex \(ARC KSS\)](#) is pleased to announce a Themed Project Fellowship on care planning in older adult care homes. This award is designed to strengthen applied research in social care. It is one of three Fellowships available under the Adult Social Care Fellowship Award scheme, 2024.

The Fellow will undertake an embedded placement in an existing national project on care planning in older adult care homes. They will also be supported by a comprehensive package of funding, mentorship and facilitated peer support.

- We are seeking applications from people working within or researching adult social care in Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS).

Applicants can come from any professional background, including academics who can demonstrate close links to practice. This Themed Project Fellowship would be suitable for someone who has some prior research experience and knowledge, but wishes to gain further research experience and develop skills, ahead of then applying for an independent project of their own in the future.

Awardees will:

- Undertake a flexible programme of tailored research training and professional development (e.g. mentoring, training courses or tailored learning activities). This programme will be tailored both around the needs of the project and the Fellow's research development.
- Join an existing implementation and evaluation focused project working with older adult care homes. Though a national project, the Fellow will support and work on research taking place in the Kent, Surrey, and Sussex region.
- Work with a team of researchers and public advisors from five ARC regions across England.
- Build relationships and partnerships between academia and practice.

Joint, bi-directional working across academia and practice will be encouraged to enable awardees to build applied research skills relevant to practice. This will be facilitated and supported by the academic supervisor for the project, Nick Smith (n.j.smith@kent.ac.uk), Research Fellow in Social Care at the University of Kent.

What is available: (see guidance document for further details)

The maximum funding for this Fellowship is **£58,334**. This will cover salary costs up to approx. two days per week over an 18-month period, and a comprehensive package of funding, mentorship and facilitated peer support.

Project details

The project, in which the successful applicant will be embedded for the Fellowship, is part of the [ARC National Priority Programme for Social Care and Social Work](#) (ARC NPP). It aims to further develop, pilot, and evaluate approaches towards care planning in older adult care homes which focus on quality-of-life.

The Themed Project Fellow would join a stream of work which is piloting and evaluating the use of the [ASCOT](#) approach to care planning. ASCOT is a well-established outcomes measure which focuses on quality-of-life and is designed for use in social care settings, including care homes. Working with an older adult care home in the ARC KSS region, the Fellow, alongside an experienced academic researcher (Nick Smith, at the University of Kent), will support the care home to implement the ASCOT approach to care planning. The Fellow will also contribute to evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the approach, as well as assessing the implementation process.

This work will involve spending time in the care home helping set up the implementation as well as collecting data both prior to and after the implementation of the ASCOT care planning approach. The Fellow's role would include conducting interviews with care home staff, and residents and their supporters, and helping administer staff surveys. The wider project team will be supporting implementation and conducting an evaluation of quality-of-life care planning in older adult care homes across England. The Fellow would also be involved in both data analysis and disseminating findings. This work will involve working with researchers from other Universities and the project's public advisors.

It is envisaged that the Fellowship will begin in October 2024 and run for 18 months, with the ARC NPP project ending in December 2025. The final three months of the Fellowship will be dedicated to dissemination and professional development. The programme of professional development, which will run throughout the fellowship, will be tailored to the Fellow's individual needs and goals, as well as developing the skills needed to effectively contribute to the ARC NPP study. It will combine formal training, with mentorship, supervision, and peer support.

Award criteria: (see guidance document for further details)

The same award criteria apply to the Themed Project Fellowship as for the other awards. Namely, you must be working in adult social care, or in academia with strong links to practice, from any professional background, and be employed by an ARC KSS member organisation. (If your organisation is not currently a member, then they must be eligible to become one. See guidance document for further details.) As a Fellowship Award holder, you cannot have received funding for a research project or activity, >£50,000 as the project lead, in the last 5 years.

Qualifying individual for Themed Project Award must also have some prior research experience and knowledge, and a willingness to gain further research experience and develop skills. Experience or familiarity with the older adult care home sector is desirable, though not essential. Experience of working with care professionals and older people, especially those living with dementia, and their families, would also be desirable. Some experience of conducting qualitative research, particularly interviews, would be a beneficial skill. However, skills training and support to develop (or further develop) these skills could be included in the personal development and training plan, as needed.

How to apply: (see guidance document for further details)

The application deadline, which requires the completion of an application form and CV (maximum 3 pages), is the **28th June 2024 at 5pm**.

It is important that **applicants contact Nick Smith** (n.j.smith@kent.ac.uk) at the earliest available opportunity to discuss their application. Applicants are required to develop their applications, costings, and tailored research development and training programmes with Nick Smith prior to submission.

If you have any general questions about the awards, please email arckssacademy@kent.ac.uk.