

**Closing Date extended until: 5pm on Monday 2 December 2024**

**Invitation for Expressions of Interest for:  
Co-Director at the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex**

We are seeking expressions of interest for the role of Co-Director at the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex (ARC KSS). Initially, the appointment will be funded for one year at either 0.1fte or 0.2fte starting on 1 April 2025.

A substantive 0.2fte role is being incorporated into the application for a further round of funding from April 2026. The ARC KSS Co-Director should be an established applied health and/or care researcher and have the ability to engage with major clinical, professional and patient and public groups, health and care organisations and have experience supporting the application of research to the practice and delivery of health and/or care.

**Background**

The 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. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is the host Trust for the ARC KSS working collaboratively with universities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex and member organisations to deliver its objectives. The NIHR ARC KSS is funded by an NIHR grant to develop an infrastructure around our eight research themes. Many NHS Trusts, health and social care providers, third sector organisations, emergency services, higher education institutes and charities have also committed to co-funding the ARC KSS to support applied health and social care research and/or implementation within the communities that they serve.

<https://arc-kss.nihr.ac.uk/>

**The role**

The role of Co-Director is a new one within ARC KSS. It will form part of the senior management team, working closely with the current Director, Professor Stephen Peckham, programme and research managers. The Co-Director will be a member of the ARC KSS Executive which meets on the first Tuesday of every month. We are seeking a researcher who can bring additional expertise to the ARC and is committed to developing and supporting applied health and care research across the Kent, Surrey and Sussex region. The Co-Director will take more detailed responsibility for oversight of specific areas of ARC KSS activity, supported by its management and administrative team.

The Co-Director should hold a substantive post within a health or care organisation, local authority, or Higher Education institution within the ARC KSS area. You will need to demonstrate commitment to the values and aims of ARC KSS, supporting the strengthening of applied research capacity and activity in the region.

In line with current NIHR guidance on the appointment of ARC leadership roles, you should be able to demonstrate:

- evidence that you are established in your particular field of research
- a track record in translating research into guidance for health and care practitioners
- an understanding of knowledge mobilisation and supporting the application of evidence for practice
- the ability to engage with health and care professionals, managers, providers and commissioners and other relevant organisations within health and care
- the ability to engage with patients and the public.

### Additional Information

The employing organisation of the successful applicant will be contracted by the host Trust of ARC KSS, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in the form of a collaboration agreement.

### How to Apply

Please send an expression of interest to [ARCKentSurreySussex@spft.nhs.uk](mailto:ARCKentSurreySussex@spft.nhs.uk) including:

- a one-page statement setting out your reasons for applying
- how you would contribute to the aims of ARC KSS
- current CV (maximum 3 pages).

The deadline for submission is: **5pm on Monday 2 December 2024** to [ARCKentSurreySussex@spft.nhs.uk](mailto:ARCKentSurreySussex@spft.nhs.uk).

Short-listed applicants will be invited to attend an interview which is likely to be December.

If you wish to find out more about the role, please contact the current ARC KSS Director, Professor Stephen Peckham [s.peckham@kent.ac.uk](mailto:s.peckham@kent.ac.uk)