

## **Mental Health Implementation Network (MHIN)**

### **Role description: Project Lead**

Academics, senior clinical leaders and experts by experience from underserved areas, and people from ethnic minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

#### **The Mental Health Implementation Network**

The Mental Health Implementation Network is led by [NIHR Applied Research Collaboration \(ARC\) South London](#), working closely with [NIHR ARC East of England](#) as well as the other [13 ARCs nationally](#).

The MHIN [launched a scoping exercise in April](#) 2021 to identify specific areas of mental health care in England where there is a high level of unmet need, and which could be addressed through existing evidence-based solutions at scale. There was an excellent response to the scoping exercise, with mental health trusts, charities, social and educational services, and research organisations, helping to identify more than 90 mental health needs in England.

MHIN researchers then aligned these needs with those identified by other studies in England since 2015 and a review of national policy documents. Using this approach, the researchers have identified four broad topics of mental health need and their accompanying solutions in England: Children and young people; Comorbidities; Inequalities; Addictions. Working under the four topics, the team will identify mental health interventions that meet the needs of patients and health systems, may be ready for implementation, and are supported by evidence of effectiveness, including NICE guidance. The next stage will be to implement and evaluate implementation of interventions in the 4 priority areas.

#### **What is in it for you?**

The MHIN programme consists of seven workstreams and four project groups. An indicative budget of up to £500k is allocated for the delivery of each project (once additional funding is approved by NIHR). The project will be led by project leads who will be supported by a project manager, PPI coordinators and research assistants. Each project will be delivered within two to three collaborating ARCs.

For each of the four project groups, MHIN is looking for Project Leads. There is a potential for more than one project co-leads per project. The position is available immediately and Project Leads will be appointed for the duration of the MHIN programme, to September 2023. This is a part-time role suitable for someone already working in the field. The indicative time requirement/salary for the role is 5% Full Time Equivalent.

#### **About the role**

Project leads will be expected to have worked in a senior leadership capacity in one of the four project topics, preferably at a regional or national level, and will be familiar with the research evidence, policy and service delivery issues relevant to the project topic. We are seeking to appoint project co-leads to share leadership tasks, including a co-lead who is expert by experience in the specific project topic. An existing connection with one of the 15 NIHR ARCs would be helpful, as the projects will be conducted in collaboration with the ARCs. We particularly welcome applications

NHIR's National Priorities Programme for Mental Health, including Children and Young People's Mental Health from candidates from areas of England which are historically under-served by mental health research, including but not limited to the north of England.

The following priority areas are the focus of these four project groups:

1. [Community engagement systems for people from ethnic minority communities to improve access to mental health care \(project 1\).](#)
2. [Integrated physical and mental health care for people with severe mental illness \(project 2\).](#)
3. [Improving Access to Psychological Therapies \(IAPT\)-style services for children and adolescents, especially in schools \(project 3\).](#)
4. [Integrated care protocols for co-occurring mental illness and substance misuse \(project 4\).](#)

The position of *Project Lead* is integral to the role that the network will play in the future in providing a clear and structured environment that helps in the design, implementation and evaluation of mental health interventions within the ARC regions including underserved areas. We are therefore looking for an experienced, creative and strategic individual, who is able to lead on implementation and evaluation at multiple project sites as part of MHIN's ongoing work.

## Key responsibilities:

1. Lead on the delivery of mental health interventions within multiple healthcare contexts, working with colleagues, clinicians, other clinical/non-clinical academics and experts by experience to scope, plan, design and deliver research objectives.
2. Contribute to and work with project group members and workstream leads in supporting the strategic development and functioning of the MHIN. This involves working with a variety of internal and external stakeholders.
3. Identify and incorporate initiatives aligned to patient and public involvement and engagement; health inequalities and disseminate across the project groups and the network.
4. Provide key leadership and oversee project management in delivering evidence based mental health interventions within collaborating ARCs. Manage and actively promote strong, credible relationships with key stakeholders.

## How to Apply

You can submit your application **by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**. Please include a brief one-page statement as to your reasons for applying for the role of Project Lead and a short (2-3 page) CV including current and previous roles held, research grants, publications and relevant regional or national roles in the field of mental health implementation. Please send your application to Ms Flavia Bertini, MHIN administrator at [flavia.bertini@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:flavia.bertini@kcl.ac.uk)

We would like the applicant to start in April as we have an MHIN programme launch event on April 27th, 2022.

## Find out more about us here:

[Further information about the programme can be found here](#)

## Questions

Prospective applicants for the role are encouraged to contact Dr Shalini Ahuja (MHIN Programme Manager; [shalini.ahuja@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:shalini.ahuja@kcl.ac.uk)) for an informal discussion.